COUNTDOWN to FRENCH
LEARN TO COMMUNICATE in 24 HOURS

- JUST ONE HOUR TO GRASP EACH SKILL
- IDEAL FOR HOME STUDY, VACATION, AND BUSINESS TRAVEL
- MASTER ESSENTIAL GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY
- BUILD SPEAKING CONFIDENCE IN MANY PRACTICAL SITUATIONS

GAIL STEIN
COUNTDOWN to FRENCH
Learn to Communicate in 24 Hours

GAIL STEIN

McGraw-Hill
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This book is dedicated to:

My wonderfully patient and supportive husband, Douglas
My incredibly loving, understanding, and proud sons, Eric and Michael
  My proud parents, Jack and Sara Bernstein
My creative sister and her family, Susan, Jay, and Zachary Opperman
  My superior consultant and advisor, Roger H. Herz
  My good friend and supporter, Christina Levy
My seventh-grade buddy, who kept my interest in French alive, Ray Elias
This page intentionally left blank.
For more information about this title, click here.

Contents

Introduction xiii

24:00 Focusing on Pronunciation 1

Master These Skills 1
Perfecting Your Pronunciation 2
Stress 2
Liaison 2
Elision 2
Accents 3
Vowels 4
Nasals 6
Non-Nasal Combinations 9
Consonants 9
A Final Suggestion 13
Time’s Up! 13

23:00 Recognizing and Using Nouns 15

Master These Skills 15
Gender 16
Noun Markers 16
Nouns 19
Cognates 26
Time’s Up! 28

22:00 Working with Present-Tense Verbs 29

Master These Skills 29
Subject Nouns and Pronouns 30
Verbs 31
Shoe Verbs 36
CONTENTS

15:00 Offering Ideas and Issuing Commands

Master These Skills 127
Making Proposals 128
Giving Commands 129
Giving and Receiving Directions 130
Using the Pronoun Y 133
Using Idioms 135
Positive Reinforcement 135
Complaints 136
Using Ce + Être or Il Est 136
Time’s Up! 138

14:00 Using French Around the Home

Master These Skills 139
House and Home 140
Chores 141
Getting Help in a Store 142
Devoir—to Have to 143
Impersonal Expressions 144
Understanding and Forming the Present Subjunctive 144
The Past Subjunctive 149
Offering Encouragement 149
Time’s Up! 150

13:00 Asking Questions

Master These Skills 151
Asking Yes/No Questions 152
Information Questions 155
Using Il Y A 159
Asking for Directions 159
Asking for a Price 160
Questioning New Acquaintances 160
Lack of Communication 161
Time’s Up! 162
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td><strong>Answering Questions</strong></td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Master These Skills</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Answering Yes</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Answering No</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negative Expressions</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Answering Information Questions</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On the Phone</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phone Problems</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Time’s Up!</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td><strong>Seeking Help</strong></td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Master These Skills</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Getting Help Anywhere</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At the Post Office</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At the Hair Salon</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At the Dry Cleaner’s</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At the Optician’s</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At the Camera Store</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At the Jeweler’s</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Services and Needs</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Time’s Up!</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td><strong>Working with Pronouns</strong></td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Master These Skills</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Making Suggestions</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leisure Activities</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Going to the Movies and Watching Television</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Invariable Demonstrative Pronouns</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Ceci, Cela, Ce, and Ça)</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Object Pronouns</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Positive Feelings</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Using the Subjunctive to Express Emotions and Feelings</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Time’s Up!</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
09:00 Planning Outdoor Activities

Master These Skills 197
Sports 198
The Weather 199
Expressing Negative Opinions 201
Expressing Indifference 201
The Subjunctive with Expressions of Doubt 202
The Subjunctive After Impersonal Expressions 203
The Subjunctive After Verbs of Opinion or Knowledge 204
Time’s Up! 204

08:00 Making Comparisons

Master These Skills 205
Animals 206
In the Classroom 206
Comparisons of Inequality 207
Comparisons of Equality 214
Comparative and Superlative Expressions 215
The Subjunctive After Superlative Expressions 215
Time’s Up! 216

07:00 Meeting Your Needs on the Road and Elsewhere

Master These Skills 217
Hotel Accommodations and Amenities 218
Exclamations 219
More Uses of the Subjunctive 220
Relative Pronouns 223
Time’s Up! 226

06:00 Speaking of Food

Master These Skills 227
Quantities 228
The Partitive 229
Eating Establishments 230
# Contents

- **Foods** 231
- **En** 239
- **Time’s Up!** 242

### 05:00 Medically Speaking

- Master These Skills 243
- At the Pharmacy 244
- Prepositional Modifiers 245
- Parts of the Body 246
- Medical Problems 247
- At the Doctor’s Office 248
- Asking and Answering “How Long?” 249
- Time’s Up! 250

### 04:00 Choosing and Buying Clothing

- Master These Skills 251
- Clothing 252
- Selecting Sizes and Getting Alterations 253
- Problems 255
- Colors 256
- Fabrics 257
- Patterns 257
- Sales 258
- Making a Purchase 258
- Variable Demonstrative Pronouns 258
- Time’s Up! 259

### 03:00 Taking Care of Travel Needs

- Master These Skills 261
- At the Airport 262
- At the Train Station 264
- Travel by Car 264
- The Passive Voice 267
- Time’s Up! 268
Introduction

The main premise of *Countdown to French* is that you can learn this extremely useful and beautiful language quickly and effectively. If you are willing to spend just 24 hours of your time studying the grammar, vocabulary, and phrases presented in the lessons, you will find that you will be able to understand and communicate in French in various types of everyday situations. You can immediately feel confident that you will meet this challenge and accomplish your goals effortlessly and rapidly.

To make the task of learning French as time-efficient as possible, *Countdown to French* is divided into 24 one-hour lessons. Each lesson is then subdivided into logical and manageable parts, which will enable you to learn the material with ease and self-assurance. Just divide the lesson so that you allow an equal number of minutes for each major heading. Do not worry about memorizing all the words in every table. That would prove to be an impossible and frustrating task. Instead, use the lists for reference, with the key phrases you memorize. Those words that are high-frequency in your vocabulary will quickly become a part of your own personal word list.

*Countdown to French* is completely different from other language books: It is not a grammar text for students, yet it contains an in-depth study of all the major grammar inherent to French. It is not a phrase book for travelers, yet it contains all the in-depth vocabulary you might want or need in every conceivable situation. It is, therefore, a unique combination of the two that gives you the essentials for an immediate jump start in speaking and understanding French.

Unlike any other foreign language book on the market, *Countdown to French* is organized into a series of tasks that speakers will find useful and adaptable in a wide variety of situations: socializing, giving and receiving information, persuasion, expressing feelings and emotions, and expressing needs. These are the rudimentary task elements of any language that are necessary for anyone who wants to understand and be understood: to communicate as effectively as possible. Remember that dictionaries just give you words without teaching you how to put them together to form logical, comprehensive thoughts. *Countdown to French* will allow you to reach this goal.

Hours 24:00 to 19:00 present the grammar you will need to form complete, simple, correct sentences in the past, present, or future. The
differences between English and French syntax and structure will be pinpointed to give you a greater understanding and command of the language. The rules you learn in these lessons can then be applied to accomplish any of the tasks in the ones that follow. So feel free to skip around and use the knowledge you’ve acquired in any of the parts that follow, without being overly concerned about sequence.

Hours 18:00 to 16:00 give you the phrases and structures necessary to strike up conversations and make the acquaintance of French-speaking people. You’ll learn how to extend, accept, and graciously refuse an invitation and offer apologies and excuses using the correct French vocabulary and structures.

Hours 15:00 and 14:00 enable you to get someone to follow a course of action at a mutually convenient time and place. These lessons allow you to make proposals, offer suggestions, and give commands that can be used for a variety of activities and events.

Hours 13:00 to 11:00 teach you the most effective ways to ask yes/no and information questions. In the event of a lack of communication, you’ll be prepared. You’ll also be able to properly furnish any necessary information being asked of you, in a quick, efficient manner. There are lessons teaching you how to make a phone call and how to obtain help in securing personal services at the post office, the hair salon, the dry cleaner’s, the optician’s, the camera shop, and the jeweler’s. There’s even vocabulary for those with special needs who require special services.

Hours 10:00 to 8:00 allow you to express your positive and negative reactions and emotions, as well as your indifference and indecision toward varying activities. You’ll be using colloquial and idiomatic French and grammatically correct structures to accomplish these tasks, as well as to make comparisons.

Hours 7:00 to 1:00 will help you with your hotel, food, medical, clothing, transportation, banking, and business needs by means of easy, but clear-cut French expressions.

The rest is up to you. If you’re really committed, you can do this! *Bonne chance!* (bohn shahNs) Good luck!
Focusing on Pronunciation

MASTER THESE SKILLS

• Pronunciation
• Stress, liaison, elision, and accents
• Vowels
• Nasal sounds
• Consonants

In this chapter you’ll learn how to stress French syllables, how to use liaison and elision, and how different accents affect the sounds of the French letters. You’ll also be given a key to help you properly pronounce vowels, consonants, and nasal sounds.
PERFECTING YOUR PRONUNCIATION
Although your level of competence in pronouncing French properly has very little bearing on your ability to be understood, you can follow some simple steps that should help you to express yourself in an acceptable manner. Some suggestions and tips for better pronunciation include the following:

- Relax and speak slowly—no one expects you to sound like a native.
- Slip and slide the sounds together to get a more natural flow.
- Lose your inhibitions by reading aloud French newspapers, magazines, and literature.
- Set aside the necessary time to practice the different sounds.
- Don’t be afraid to “ham up” your accent.
- Remember to pronounce letters with accents properly.
- Use your nose to pronounce French nasal sounds.

STRESS
Each syllable in a French word has about equal stress, so be careful not to be overly energetic while practicing your pronunciation. You’ll need to add slightly stronger emphasis on the last syllable of a group of words. You’ll achieve the best results, however, by staying on an even keel.

LIAISON
Liaison occurs when you link the final consonant of one word with the beginning vowel (a, e, i, o, u) or vowel sound (unaspirated h, y) of the next word. You’ll find instances in French when a liaison is obligatory, optional, or forbidden. Don’t worry: You won’t need to learn all the rules that apply if you simply follow the pronunciation guide provided in this book. Liaison is accomplished by linking the first word with the second, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHRASE</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION WITH LIAISON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vous adorez</td>
<td>voo zah-doh-ray</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The final s of vous is linked with the a of adorez to form a z sound.

ELISION
Elision most often occurs when there are two pronounced vowel sounds: one at the end of one word, and the other at the beginning of the following word. Elision requires dropping the final vowel of the first word and replacing it with an apostrophe. Then you simply slide the words together.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHRASE</th>
<th>ELISION</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>je adore</td>
<td>j’adore</td>
<td>zha-dohr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACCENTS
Accent marks are small pronunciation guides that help you speak like a native. French has five different accent marks that may change the sounds of letters, ranging from a great to an almost imperceptible degree.

Accent Aigu
An accent aigu (´) is only used on an e (ê) and produces the sound ay as in the word ray. It may also replace an s from Old French. Whenever you see this accent, try inserting an s to see whether the meaning of the word becomes clearer:

épice  épponge  étrange
spice  sponge  strange

Accent Grave
An accent grave (´) may be used on a (à), e (è), or u (ù). The sounds of the a and u remain unchanged. On an e, however, an accent grave produces the sound eh as in the e in let.

à  célèbre  où
ah  say-lehbr  oo

Accent Circonflexe
An accent circonflexe (^) may be placed on all vowels but does not cause any significant sound change; in fact, it may only make the vowel sound slightly longer. Like an accent aigu, this accent often replaces an s from Old French, which gives a clue to the meaning of the word.

âge  forêt  île  hôtel  coûter
ahzh  foh-reh  eel  o-tel  koo-tay
age  forest  island  hotel/hostel  cost

Cédille
A cédille (¸) is used on a c (ç), but only before an a, o, or u to create the soft s sound.

ça  leçon  reçu
sah  leh-sohN  ruh-sew
that  lesson  receipt/received
Tréma
A tréma (¨) is used on the second of two consecutive vowels. The tréma indicates that each vowel sound is pronounced separately.

Noël           Haïti
noh-ehl        ah-ee-tee

NOTE
Be careful when using accents; some words have different meanings depending upon whether they are written with or without an accent:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a</th>
<th>à</th>
<th>ã</th>
<th>la</th>
<th>là</th>
<th>ou</th>
<th>où</th>
<th>sur</th>
<th>sûr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>à</td>
<td>ã</td>
<td>la</td>
<td>là</td>
<td>ou</td>
<td>où</td>
<td>sur</td>
<td>sûr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VOWELS
Some vowels in French have several different sounds, and specific rules and accent marks determine their pronunciation. You should, therefore, pay careful attention to the sounds of all vowels. When vowels appear in combinations, they may produce sounds that are unfamiliar. After each explanation in this chapter, you have the opportunity to practice repeating sentences that reinforce the sounds presented. Take advantage and practice these sentences until you feel comfortable that you have mastered the material.

a
A has only one sound. Just open your mouth and say ahh.

Mrs. Laval is going to Madagascar with Nathalie Savard.

Mme Laval va à Madagascar avec Nathalie Savard.

mah-dahm lah-vehl vah ah mah-dah-gahs-kahr ah-vehk nah-tah-lee sah-ward

e
E has three sounds: ay, uh, or eh depending upon accentuation and the position of the e within the syllable. When in doubt, consult the pronunciation guide.
NOTE VOWEL SYMBOL PRONUNCIATION

é, final er and ez, es in some
one-syllable words, some ai and
et combinations ay ay as in day

e in one-syllable words or in the
middle of a word followed by a
single consonant uh e as in the

è, ê, and e (plus two consonants
or a final pronounced consonant),
et, ei, ai eh e as in get

Hélène and Steven Évêque hope to receive the same toy.
Hélène et Étienne Évêque espèrent recevoir le même jouet.
ay-lehn ay ay-tyehn ay-vehk ehs-pehr ruh-suh-vwahr iuh mehm zhoo-eh

i

The i is pretty straightforward and easy to pronounce as an ee sound. The only exception is when it is followed by an l, when it has a soft y sound.

VOWEL SYMBOL PRONUNCIATION

i, i, y, ui ee i as in magazine

ill or il when preceded by a vowel ee-y y as in you

There is a village of a thousand calm families who work under a shiny sun.
Il y a un village de mille familles tranquilles qui travaillent sous un soleil brillant.
eel yah uhN vee-lahzh duh meel fah-mee-y trahN-keel kee trah-vah-y soo zuhN soh-leh-y bree-yahN

NOTE

The letter combination ill is pronounced eel in the following words only: ville (veel) city; village (vee-lahzh) village; mille (meel) a thousand; million (meel-yohn) million; tranquille (trahN-keel) calm.

O

The letter o has two different sounds: o and oh. Round your lips to get the o sound. Your lips should be more open and less rounded for the oh sound.
VOWEL SYMBOL PRONUNCIATION

o before se, o when last pronounced sound of word, ô, au, eau

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOWEL</th>
<th>SYMBOL</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o as in go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o when followed by a pronounced consonant other than s</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOWEL</th>
<th>SYMBOL</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ou, où, oû</td>
<td>oo</td>
<td>oo as in root</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oy, oi</td>
<td>wah</td>
<td>w as in watch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In October a man at the Toulouse Hotel gave a lot of yellow roses and an expensive bicycle to Odette as a gift.

En octobre un homme à l’Hôtel Toulouse a donné beaucoup de roses jaunes et un vélo coûteux en cadeau à Odette.

ahN nohk-tohbr uhN nohm ah lo-tehl too-looz ah doh-nay bo-koo duh roz zhon ay uhN vay-lo koo-tuh ahN kah-do ah oh-deht

Do not allow yourself to pronounce the oi in French words like oy, the sound heard at the end of the English word boy. The oy combination is pronounced wah: voyage (vwah-yahzh).

The French u

There is no close English equivalent for the French u. Try the following for best results: pucker your lips as if you are saying the sound oo as in moo while you try to say the sound ee as in see.

VOWEL SYMBOL PRONUNCIATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOWEL</th>
<th>SYMBOL</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>u, ü, ū</td>
<td>ew</td>
<td>no English equivalent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You are sure that Ursula had a dispute with Lulu about the menu.

Tu es sûr qu’Ursule a eu une dispute avec Lulu au sujet du menu.

tew eh sewr kewr-sewl ah ewn dees-pewt ah-vehk lew-lew o sew-zheh dew muh-new

NASALS

To produce a French nasal sound, you must use your nose and your mouth. Nasal sounds occur when a vowel is followed by a single n or m in the same syllable. If you hold your nose when you say the vowel of the nasal sound, your nose will vibrate.
In the pronunciation guide, a capital N following a vowel indicates that you must make a nasal sound.

**an (am), en (em)**

All of these nasal sounds have the same pronunciation despite the difference in spelling. To pronounce these sounds properly, open your lips a fairly wide amount.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NASAL</th>
<th>SYMBOL</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>an (am), en (em)</td>
<td>ahN</td>
<td>similar to on with little emphasis on n</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In September Henry Bertrand often waits for his employee, André Content, in front of the camp.

En septembre Henri Bertrand attend souvent son employé, André Content, devant le camp.

**in (im), ain (aim)**

These nasal sounds are different from those in the preceding section in that the lips are not as open and the mouth is in a wider position.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NASAL</th>
<th>SYMBOL</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in (im), ain (aim)</td>
<td>aN</td>
<td>similar to an with little emphasis on n</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Alain Rimbaud, a simple and sincere man, eats bread and turkey with his friend.

Alain Rimbaud, un homme simple et sincère, mange du pain et de la dinde avec son copain.

**ien**

The ien nasal, as opposed to the in (im), ain (aim) nasals, starts with a y sound.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NASAL</th>
<th>SYMBOL</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ien</td>
<td>yaN</td>
<td>similar to y in Yankee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Good, Lucien is holding the dog well.
Bien, Lucien tient bien le chien.
byaN lew-syaN tyaN byaN luh shyaN

**oin**
This nasal is pronounced like the English *wa* sound that is almost like a baby’s cry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NASAL</th>
<th>SYMBOL</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>oin</td>
<td>waN</td>
<td>similar to <em>wa</em> in <em>wag</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By far, there are fewer points.

De loin, il y a moins de points.
duh IwaN eel yah mwaN duh pwaN

**on (om)**
This nasal sound is pronounced with rounded lips.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NASAL</th>
<th>SYMBOL</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>on (om)</td>
<td>ohN</td>
<td>similar to <em>on</em> in <em>long</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Simon counts how many push-ups Raymond and Gaston do.
Simon compte combien de pompes Raymond et Gaston font.
see-mohN kohNt kohN-byaN duh pohNp ray-mohN ay gahs-tohN fohN

**un (um)**
This nasal is pronounced with the lips open and rather wide apart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NASAL</th>
<th>SYMBOL</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>un (um)</td>
<td>uhN</td>
<td>similar to <em>un</em> in <em>under</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Monday Mrs. Lebrun borrows perfume.
Lundi Mme Lebrun emprunte du parfum.
luhN-dee mah-dahm luh-bruhN ahN-pruhNt dew pahr-fuhN

**uin**
*Uin*, which is seen very infrequently, can also be represented by the *waN* symbol, as in the word for June: *juin* (*zhwaN*).
NON-NASAL COMBINATIONS
The following combinations do not require nasal pronunciations:

- vowel + nn (mm) bonne (bohn), homme (uhm)
- vowel + n (m) + vowel mine (meen), âme (ahm)

CONSONANTS
In French, most final consonants are not pronounced except for final c, r, f, and l (think of the word careful). Many consonants are pronounced in exactly the same way as you pronounce them in English: b, d, f, k, l, m, n, p, s, t, v, z.

\[c\]
The letter \(c\) may have a soft or hard sound depending on the letter that comes after it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LETTER</th>
<th>SYMBOL</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c before a, o, u (hard sound)</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>c as in car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c before i, e, y (soft sound) or ç</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>s as in scent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ch</td>
<td>sh</td>
<td>ch as in machine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This boy receives six short documents, here in class, during the lesson on national culture.

Ce garçon reçoit six courts documents, ici en classe, pendant la leçon sur la culture nationale.

The chef, Michel Chambord, chooses a chocolate croissant at Chartlotte’s house.

Le chef, Michel Chambord, choisit un pain au chocolat chez Charlotte.

The letter \(g\) may have a soft or hard sound depending upon the letter following it. The \(gn\) combination has a special pronunciation of its own. \(J\) has the same pronunciation as the soft \(g\) sound.
**LETTER** | **SYMBOL** | **PRONUNCIATION**
---|---|---
g before a, o, u, or a consonant | g | g as in good

g before e, i, y | zh | s as in treasure

gn | ny | n as in onion

gn when followed by a final e | nyuh | n as in onion

j | zh | s as in treasure

---

Gisèle, Gregory, and a boy taste the vegetables and the ice cream at George’s house.

Gisèle, Grégoire, et un garçon goûtent les légumes et la glace chez Georges.

*zhee-zehl gray-gwahr ay uhN gahr-sohN goot lay lay-gewm ay lah glahs shay zhohrzh*

Agnès accompanies Mrs. Régnier to the mountains in Spain and to the country in Brittany.

Agnès accompagne Mme Régnier à la montagne en Espagne et à la campagne en Bretagne.

*ah-nyehs ah-kohN-pah-nyuh mah-dahm ray-nyay ah lah mohN-tahn-nyuh ahN nehs-pah-nyuh ay ah lah kahN-pah-nyuh ahN bruh-tah-nyuh*

On Thursdays, pretty, young Julienne plays with Jacqueline and Janine.

Le jeudi, la jeune et jolie Julienne joue avec Jacqueline et Janine.

*luh zhuh-dee lah zhuhn ay zhoh-lee zhewlyehn zhooh ah-vehk zhahk-leen ay zhah-nee*

**h**

An h is always silent in French. Most of the time you will use h as you would a vowel (an unaspirated b), with either elision with a vowel that precedes it, as in l’homme, or liaison with a consonant that precedes it, as in un homme (uhN nohm). Use an aspirated h as a silent consonant with neither elision nor liaison, as in le homard (luh oh-mahr) or un homard (uhN oh-mahr).
Hervé, Hélène, and Henry live in a hotel in Holland.

Hervé, Hélène, et Henri habitent un hôtel en Hollande.

**qu, q**

Qu and final q are pronounced as a k and are represented by the k symbol. Qu is never pronounced kw, as in English.

Why do the five Quebeckers have a picnic?

Pourquoi est-ce que les cinq Quebecois font un pique-nique?

Robert regrets the rapid arrival of Raymond and Regina Ronsard.

Robert regrette l’arrivée rapide de Raymond et Régine Ronsard.

s, t

An s in French sounds like an s in English, except when it comes between two vowels or is used in the -sion combination. A French t sounds like an English t except in the -tion combination, where it sounds like an s. X in the numbers six (sees), dix (dees) [when they stand alone], and soixante (swah-sahNt) is also represented by the s symbol.
His cousin Élise has the opportunity to visit a collection at the museum.
Sa cousine Élise a l’occasion de visiter une collection au musée.

\[ \text{sah koo-zeen ay-leez ah loh-kah-zyohN duh vee-zeet-tay ewn koh-lehk-syohN o mew-zay} \]

\[ \text{NOTE} \]
Although you may be tempted to follow the English pattern, remember that a final s in French is not pronounced. Singular and plural nouns often have the same pronunciation and are differentiated by the articles used with them.

\textbf{th}
There is no \textit{th} sound in French. The \textit{h} in this combination is always silent. Whereas French speakers of English have tremendous difficulty pronouncing English words that begin with \textit{th}, such as \textit{the}, \textit{this}, and \textit{there}, American speakers of French tend to incorrectly use the \textit{th} pronunciation in French words.

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline
\textbf{LETTER} & \textbf{SYMBOL} & \textbf{PRONUNCIATION} \\
\hline
\textit{th} & \textit{t} & \textit{t as in to} \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Thomas and Thierry find Catherine nice.
Thomas et Thierry trouvent Catherine sympathique.

\[ \text{toh-mahhs ay tyeh ree troov kah-treeen saN pah teek} \]

\textbf{x}
The letter \textit{x} is pronounced one way before a vowel and a different way before a consonant.

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline
\textbf{LETTER} & \textbf{SYMBOL} & \textbf{PRONUNCIATION} \\
\hline
\textit{x} before a vowel & \textit{ehg} & \textit{egg} \\
\hline
\textit{x} before a consonant & \textit{ehks} & \textit{xc as in excellent} \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Max expresses his sentiments exactly in a textual analysis.
Max exprime exactement ses sentiments dans une explication de texte.

\[ \text{mahks ehks preem ehg sahk tuh mahN say sahN tee mahN dahN zewn ehks plee kah syohN duh teh kst} \]
A FINAL SUGGESTION

Now that you are well on your way to excellent pronunciation habits, try singing along to your favorite French songs. Whether you prefer oldies or something more contemporary, you will find that you can learn a lot of vocabulary and easily become accustomed to the rhythms used by native speakers.

TIME’S UP!

Now that you’ve had the opportunity to thoroughly acquaint yourself with and practice the sounds of French, try reading these potentially useful phrases without the aid of any pronunciation clues. Try to avoid looking back for help.

1. Bonjour. Je m’appelle Julien Éric Constant. Comment vous appelez-vous? (Hello. My name is Julian Eric Constant. What’s your name?)
2. Je parle un peu le français. (I speak a little French.)
3. Excusez-moi. Je ne comprends pas. Veuillez parler plus lentement. (Excuse me. I don’t understand. Please speak more slowly.)
4. Qu’est-ce que vous avez dit? Répétez, s’il vous plaît. (What did you say? Please repeat it.)
5. Je voudrais changer mes dollars américains en euros. (I would like to change my American dollars to euros.)
6. Pardon. Où est l’ambassade américaine? (Excuse me. Where’s the American Embassy?)
7. Je ne me sens pas bien. Où se trouve le cabinet du docteur le plus proche? (I don’t feel well. Where is the office of the nearest doctor?)
9. Combien coûtent ce joli pantalon brun et ces chemises rouges? (How much do these pretty brown pants and red shirts cost?)
10. J’ai besoin d’une cuiller, d’une fourchette, et d’un couteau. Merci beaucoup. (I need a spoon, a fork, and a knife. Thank you very much.)
Recognizing and Using Nouns

MASTER THESE SKILLS

• Recognizing and using noun markers
• Using nouns properly
• Making nouns plural
• Recognizing and using cognates

In this chapter you’ll learn how to differentiate masculine and feminine nouns and how to form the plural of nouns. Cognates will be explained, and a useful working list will be presented to allow for immediate communication.
GENDER

Like English, all French nouns have a number: singular (one), as in la famille, or plural (more than one), as in les parents. Unlike English, however, all French nouns also have a gender: masculine or feminine. In some instances, the gender of the noun is blatantly obvious: un homme (a man) is masculine, whereas une femme (a woman) is feminine. In other cases, the gender of a noun is not in the least bit apparent and defies all rules of common sense or logic: une cravate (a tie) is feminine, while un sac (a pocketbook) is masculine.

French syntax and grammar require that all words in a sentence agree in number and gender with the noun or pronoun they modify. For this reason, it is imperative that you learn the gender of each noun you need or deem important. Special noun endings and markers, either articles or adjectives, indicate the gender and number of French nouns.

NOUN MARKERS

Noun markers are articles or adjectives that tell you whether a noun is singular (sing.) or plural (pl.), masculine (m.) or feminine (f.). Three of the most common markers are definite articles expressing the, indefinite articles expressing a, an, one, some, or any, and demonstrative adjectives expressing this, that, these, and those.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOUN MARKER</th>
<th>SINGULAR MARKERS</th>
<th>PLURAL MARKERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Masculine</td>
<td>Feminine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>definite article</td>
<td>le (l’)</td>
<td>la (l’) [the]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>indefinite article</td>
<td>un</td>
<td>une [a, an, one]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>demonstrative adjective</td>
<td>ce (cet)</td>
<td>cette [this, that]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definite Articles**

The definite article (the) indicates a specific person or thing: the house. For words beginning with a vowel or vowel sound (unaspirated h, y), the definite articles le and la become l’. Identifying the gender of the noun, so easily done when le or la is used, becomes a problem when l’, which can represent nouns of either gender, is used. Most plural nouns end in -s, and all plural nouns require the plural marker les:

- le garçon (the boy) → les garçons (the boys)
- la fille (the girl) → les filles (the girls)
- l’élève (the student) → les élèves (the students)
Use the definite article:

- With nouns in a general or abstract sense: *J'adore le chocolat.*  
  (I love chocolate.)
- With names of languages, except immediately after *parler*, *en*, and *de*:
  
  - *Le français est facile.* French is easy.
  - *J'adore le français.* I love French.

  But:
  
  - *Je parle français.* I speak French.
  - *Ce livre est en français.* This book is in French.
  - *C'est un livre de français.* It's a French book.

- With parts of the body when the possessor is clear: *Ferme les yeux.*  
  (Close your eyes.)
- With titles of rank or profession, except when addressing the person: *le docteur Marat* (Dr. Marat), but: *Bonjour, docteur Marat.* (Hello, Dr. Marat.)
- With days of the week in a plural sense: *Le dimanche je me repose.*  
  (On Sunday[s] I rest.)
- With seasons and colors, except after *en*:
  
  - *Aimes-tu l'été?* Do you like the summer?
  - *Je préfère le rouge.* I prefer red.

  But:
  
  - *Il peint la cuisine en blanc.* He's painting the kitchen white.

- With dates: *C'est le six mai.* (It's May 6.)
- With most geographical names: *La France est belle.* (France is beautiful.)
- To express *a*, *an*, or *per* with weights and measures: *Elle paie six dollars la douzaine.* (She pays six dollars per dozen.)
- With common expressions of time or place: *le soir* (in the evening), *la semaine prochaine* (next week), *la maison* (at home): *Il travaille le matin.* (He works in the morning.)

**Indefinite Articles**

The indefinite article refers to persons and objects not specifically identified: a dog, some cats. Learn the singular indefinite article *un* or *une* for
any word that begins with a vowel. This will help you learn the gender of the nouns more easily, so you can create sentences where all necessary words are in agreement. Use des before all plural nouns.

un garçon  a boy  des garçons  (some) boys
une fille  a girl  des filles  (some) girls
un(e) élève  a student  des élèves  (some) students

**NOTE**

Never drop the e from the indefinite article une. This final e changes the sound of the word un (uhN), which is nasalized, to une (ewn), which is not nasalized.

Omit the indefinite article:

- After the verbs être (to be) and devenir (to become) before the names of professions, except after C'est or when the noun is modified:

  Janine est professeur.  Janine is a professor.
  Luc espère devenir programmeur.  Luc hopes to become a programmer.

  But:
  
  C'est une infirmière.  C'est un acteur.  She's a nurse. He's an actor.
  M. Dupont est un professeur populaire.  Mr. Dupont is a popular teacher.

- After the exclamatory adjective quel (quelle, quels, quelles): Quelle fille intelligente!  (What an intelligent girl!)
- Before the numbers cent (100) and mille (1,000): cent enfants (one hundred children), mille dollars (one thousand dollars)

**Demonstrative Adjectives**

Demonstrative adjectives indicate or point out the person, place, or thing referred to: this girl, that country, these boys, those pens. Note the following uses of demonstrative adjectives:

- Ce is used before a masculine singular noun beginning with a consonant: ce garçon (this/that boy).
- Cet is used before a masculine noun beginning with a vowel or vowel sound (unaspirated h or y): cet homme (this/that man).

Remember to link the final t of cet with the vowel that follows:
cet appartement (seh tah-pahr-tuh-mahN) (this/that apartment). This form is necessary to prevent a clash of vowel sounds.
• Cette is used before all feminine singular nouns: cette fille (this/that girl).
• Ces is used before all plural nouns: ces personnes (these/those people).

To distinguish between this and that or these and those, you may attach the tags ci for this and these, and là for that and those to the nouns to which they apply with a hyphen: ce garçon-ci (suh gahr-sohN-see) this boy; cet appartement-là (seh tah-pahr-tuh-mahN-lah) that apartment.

NOTE

Definite and indefinite articles, as well as demonstrative adjectives, must be repeated before each noun in a series:

J’adore le rouge et le bleu. I love red and blue.
Donne-moi un crayon et une gomme. Give me a pencil and an eraser.
Trouve ce garçon et cette fille. Find that boy and that girl.

NOUNS

A noun is a word used to name a person, place, thing, idea, or quality. All French nouns are either masculine or feminine, and the gender of some of them can be determined by their meaning or ending. Most nouns, however, must be learned on an individual basis.

Gender-Obvious Nouns

Nouns that refer to males are obviously masculine.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>garçon</td>
<td>gahr-sohN</td>
<td>boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>homme</td>
<td>uhm</td>
<td>man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>père</td>
<td>pehr</td>
<td>father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roi</td>
<td>rwah</td>
<td>king</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nouns that refer to females are obviously feminine.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fille</td>
<td>fee-y</td>
<td>girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>femme</td>
<td>fahm</td>
<td>woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mère</td>
<td>mehr</td>
<td>mother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reine</td>
<td>rehn</td>
<td>queen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some nouns can be either masculine or feminine depending upon whom you are speaking about. Make sure to use the gender marker that identifies the person correctly.

**Nouns for Either Gender**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>artiste</td>
<td>ahr-teest</td>
<td>artist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>élève</td>
<td>ay-lehv</td>
<td>student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enfant</td>
<td>ahN-fahN</td>
<td>child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>touriste</td>
<td>too-reest</td>
<td>tourist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cet artiste est doué. That artist (male) is gifted.

Cette artiste est douée. That artist (female) is gifted.

**Gender-Changing Singular Nouns**

Changing the gender of a noun can be as easy as adding an *e* to the masculine form to get the feminine form:

- ami (ah-mee) → amie (ah-mee) friend
- cousin (koo-zaN) → cousine (koo-zeen) cousin
- employé (ahN-plwah-yay) → employée (ahN-plwah-yay) employee
- étudiant (ay-tewd-yahN) → étudiante (ay-tewd-yahNt) student
- Français (frahN-seh) → Française (frahN-sehz) French person
- voisin (vwah-zaN) → voisine (vwah-zeen) neighbor

Some nouns may be masculine or feminine depending upon their meaning:

- le critique (critic) → la critique (criticism) kree-teek
- le livre (book) → la livre (pound) leevr
- le mémoire (report) → la mémoire (memory) may-mwahr
- le mode (method) → la mode (fashion) mohd
- le poste (job) → la poste (post office) pohst
- le tour (tour) → la tour (tower) toor

Some nouns are always masculine or feminine no matter the sex of the person to whom you are referring:
### Always Masculine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bébé</td>
<td>bay-bay</td>
<td>baby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chef</td>
<td>shehf</td>
<td>chef, head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>docteur</td>
<td>dohk-tuhr</td>
<td>doctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>écrivain</td>
<td>ay-kree-vaN</td>
<td>writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ingénieur</td>
<td>aN-zhay-nyuhr</td>
<td>engineer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>médecin</td>
<td>mayd-saN</td>
<td>doctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peintre</td>
<td>pohNtr</td>
<td>painter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pompier</td>
<td>pohN-pyeh</td>
<td>firefighter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>professeur</td>
<td>proh-feh-suhr</td>
<td>teacher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Always Feminine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>connaissance</td>
<td>koh-nah-sahnS</td>
<td>acquaintance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>personne</td>
<td>pehr-sohn</td>
<td>person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>star</td>
<td>stahr</td>
<td>star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vedette</td>
<td>vuh-deht</td>
<td>star</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gender Endings

Some masculine noun endings (usually referring to professions) have a corresponding feminine ending. Most of the feminine endings have a different sound:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASCULINE ENDINGS</th>
<th>FEMININE ENDINGS</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-an paysan (peh-ee-zahn)</td>
<td>-anne paysanne (peh-ee-zahn)</td>
<td>peasant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-er boucher (boo-shay)</td>
<td>-ère bouchère (boo-shehr)</td>
<td>butcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-eur vendeur (vahN-duhr)</td>
<td>-euse vendeuse (vahN-duhz)</td>
<td>salesclerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ien gardien (gahr-dyehn)</td>
<td>-ienne gardienne (gahr-dyehn)</td>
<td>guard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-on patron (pah-trohn)</td>
<td>-onne patronne (pah-trohn)</td>
<td>boss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-teur acteur (ahk-tuhr)</td>
<td>-trice actrice (ahk-trees)</td>
<td>actor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The gender of some nouns can be determined by their endings:

**Masculine Endings**
- -acle spectacle spehk-tahkl
- -age village vee-lahzh
- -al journal zhoor-nahl
- -eau bureau bew-ro
- -et cabinet kah-bee-neh
- -ier papier pah-pyay
- -isme cyclisme see-kleez-muh
- -ment changement shahNzh-mahN

**Feminine Endings**
- -ade orangeade oh-rahN-zahd
- -ale capitale kah-pee-tahl
- -ance chance shahNs
- -ence agence ah-zahNs
- -ette raquette rah-keht
- -ie magie mah-zhee
- -ique musique mew-zeek
- -oire victoire veek-twahr
- -sion version vehr-zyohN
- -tion nation nah-syohN
- -ure coiffure kwah-fewr

**Making Nouns Plural**
Just like in English, when a French noun refers to more than one person, place, thing, idea, or quality, it must be made plural. It is not enough to simply change the noun; the marker must be made plural as well.

To make most nouns in French plural, simply add an unpronounced s:

- le garçon (luh gahr-sohN) les garçons (lay gahr-sohN)
- une enfant (ewn ahn-fahN) des enfants (day zahN-fahN)
- cette fille (seht fee-y) ces filles (say fee-y)
The letters s, x, and z are all used to make plurals in French. So if a singular noun ends in any of these letters, its plural form remains unchanged:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>le fils (luh fees)</td>
<td>les fils (lay fees)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le prix (luh pree)</td>
<td>les prix (lay pree)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le nez (luh nay)</td>
<td>les nez (lay nay)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Common words that end in -s and -x are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>le bras (arm)</td>
<td>luh brah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le bas (stocking)</td>
<td>luh bah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le bus (bus)</td>
<td>luh bews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le choix (choice)</td>
<td>luh shwah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le colis (package)</td>
<td>luh koh-lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le corps (body)</td>
<td>luh kohr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la croix (cross)</td>
<td>lah krwah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la fois (time)</td>
<td>lah fwah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le héros (hero)</td>
<td>luh ay-roh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le palais (palace)</td>
<td>luh pah-leh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le pardessus (overcoat)</td>
<td>luh pahr-duh-sew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le pays (country)</td>
<td>luh peh-ee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le repas (meal)</td>
<td>luh ruh-pah</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other plurals are formed as follows:

- **Nouns ending in -eau add x to form the plural. The pronunciations are the same for the singular and plural forms:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>le bateau (boat)</td>
<td>les bateaux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le bureau (office, desk)</td>
<td>les bureaux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le cadeau (gift)</td>
<td>les cadeaux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le chapeau (hat)</td>
<td>les chapeaux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le château (castle)</td>
<td>les châteaux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le gâteau (cake)</td>
<td>les gâteaux</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
le manteau (coat) les manteaux luh (lay) mahN-to
le morceau (piece) les morceaux luh (lay) mohr-so

* Nouns ending in -eu add x to form the plural, except for le pneu (luh pnuh) tire: les pneus. The pronunciations for these nouns are the same for the singular and plural:
le cheveu (a single hair) les cheveux luh (lay) shuh-vuh
le jeu (game) les jeux luh (lay) zhuh
le lieu (place) les lieux luh (lay) lyuh
le neveu (nephew) les neveux luh (lay) nuh-vuh

* Nouns ending in -al change -al to -aux, except for le bal (luh bahl) ball: les bals; and le festival (luh fehs-tee-vahl): les festivals. For example:
l’animal (lah-nee-mahl), animal les animaux (lay zah-nee-mo)
le cheval (luh shuh-vahl), horse les chevaux (lay shuh-vo)
l’hôpital (lo-pee-tahl), hospital les hôpitaux (lay zo-pee-to)
le journal (luh zhoor-nahl), newspaper les journaux (lay zhoor-no)

* Nouns ending in -ou add s to form the plural. There are seven exceptions to this rule. Note that the pronunciations for the singular and plural forms are the same:
le bijou (jewel) les bijoux luh (lay) bee-zhoo
le caillou (pebble) les cailloux luh (lay) kah-yoo
le chou (cabbage) les choux luh (lay) shoo
le genou (knee) les genoux luh (lay) zhuh-noo
le hibou (owl) les hiboux luh (lay) ee-boo
le joujou (toy) les joujoux luh (lay) zhoor-zhoo
le pou (louse) les poux luh (lay) poo

Irregular plurals that you might find useful include:
l’œil (m.) (luhy), eye les yeux (lay-zyuh)
le travail (luh trah-vahy), work les travaux (lay trah-vo)
madame (mah-dahm), Mrs. mesdames (may-dahm)

mademoiselle (mahd-mwah-zehl), Miss mesdemoiselles (mayd-mwah-zehl)

monsieur (muh-syuh), Mr. messieurs (meh-syuh)

Most compound nouns (nouns made up of two nouns that are usually joined by a hyphen) do not change in the plural; only their markers do:

l’après-midi (lah-preh-mee-dee), afternoon les après-midi

le gratte-ciel (luh graht-syehl), skyscraper les gratte-ciel

le hors-d’oeuvre (luh ohr-duhvr), appetizer les hors-d’oeuvre

le rendez-vous (luh rahN-day-voo), meeting les rendez-vous

But:

le grand-père (luh grahN-pehr), grandfather les grands-pères

la grand-mère (lah grahN-mehr), grandmother les grands-mères

les grands-parents (lay grahN-pah-raN), grandparents

Just as in English, some words in French are always plural:

les ciseaux (m.) (lay see-zo), scissors

les gens (m.) (lay zhahN), people

les lunettes (f.) (lay lew-neht), eyeglasses

les mathématiques (f.) (lay mah-tay-mah-teek), mathematics

les vacances (f.) (lay vah-kahNs), vacation

Some nouns are singular but refer to a group of people. Make sure to use a singular verb that agrees with these subjects:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>le public</td>
<td>luh poo-bleek</td>
<td>audience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la foule</td>
<td>luh fool</td>
<td>crowd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tout le monde</td>
<td>too luh mohNd</td>
<td>everybody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la famille</td>
<td>luh fah-mee-y</td>
<td>family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le groupe</td>
<td>luh groop</td>
<td>group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**NOTE**


**Cognates**

A cognate is a French word that is spelled exactly the same, or almost the same, as a word in English and that has the same meaning. Sometimes English has appropriated the word from French, letter for letter, and we have incorporated it into our own vocabulary. The only real difference is in the pronunciation. The meanings of the French cognates should be quite obvious to anyone who speaks English.

**Perfect Cognates**

Some cognates are exactly the same in both French and English. Take time to compare the different pronunciations shown.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LE</th>
<th>LA</th>
<th>L’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ballet</td>
<td>blouse</td>
<td>accident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bureau</td>
<td>boutique</td>
<td>accord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chef</td>
<td>date</td>
<td>ambulance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>concert</td>
<td>dispute</td>
<td>animal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>film</td>
<td>lotion</td>
<td>article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fruit</td>
<td>minute</td>
<td>automobile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hamburger</td>
<td>note</td>
<td>avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>menu</td>
<td>photo</td>
<td>olive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sandwich</td>
<td>question</td>
<td>omelette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>service</td>
<td>table</td>
<td>orange</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Near Perfect Cognates

Below are cognates that are nearly the same in both French and English.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LE</th>
<th>LA</th>
<th>L’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cinéma (see-nay-mah)</td>
<td>banque (bahNk)</td>
<td>adresse (f.) (ah-drehs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dictionnaire (deek-syoh-nehr)</td>
<td>carotte (kah-roht)</td>
<td>âge (m.) (ahzh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dîner (dee-nay)</td>
<td>couleur (koo-luhr)</td>
<td>exemple (m.) (ehg-zahNpl)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>docteur (dohk-tuhr)</td>
<td>cathédrale (kah-tay-drahl)</td>
<td>hôtel (m.) (o-tehl)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>papier (pah-pyay)</td>
<td>famille (fah-mee-y)</td>
<td>océan (m.) (oh-say-yaN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parc (pahrk)</td>
<td>lampe (lahNp)</td>
<td>opéra (m.) (oh-pay-rah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>porc (pohr)</td>
<td>lettre (lehr)</td>
<td>opticien (m.) (ohp-tee-syaN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serveur (sehr-vuhr)</td>
<td>salade (sah-lahd)</td>
<td>orchestre (m.) (ohr-kehstr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>téléphone (tay-lay-fohn)</td>
<td>télévision (tay-lay-vee-zyohN)</td>
<td>université (f.) (ew-nee-vehr-see-tay)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

False Friends

False friends, or faux amis (fo zah-mee), are words that are spelled exactly or almost the same in both languages but that have very different meanings in French and English. These words might even be different parts of speech. Do not become overconfident and think that every French word that resembles an English one is automatically a cognate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>le bras</td>
<td>luh brah</td>
<td>arm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la chair</td>
<td>lah shehr</td>
<td>skin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la figure</td>
<td>lah fee-gewr</td>
<td>face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la librairie</td>
<td>lah lee-breh-ree</td>
<td>bookstore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le livre</td>
<td>luh leevr</td>
<td>book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la main</td>
<td>lah maN</td>
<td>hand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
l’occasion (f.)  l’occasion (f.)
le pain  le pain
le reste  le reste
le travail  le travail

l’occasion (f.)  l’occasion (f.)
le pain  le pain
le reste  le reste
le travail  le travail

When in doubt about the meaning of a word, always verify by using a bilingual dictionary. Make sure to look at the part of speech so that you don’t confuse a noun with a verb, adjective, or adverb. Also cross-check by looking up the word on both the French and English sides of the dictionary.

TIME’S UP!

Here is a two-part exercise to find out whether you have assimilated what you’ve learned about nouns in this chapter. Try your best not to look back at the chapter to arrive at your answers.

Part I
Change the markers and plural nouns to their singular forms:

1. les obstacles
2. ces appartements
3. des discussions
4. les personnes
5. ces journaux

Part II
Change the masculine markers and nouns to their feminine counterparts:

6. l’ami
7. le professeur
8. le musicien
9. un enfant
10. cet étudiant
Working with Present-Tense Verbs

MASTER THESE SKILLS

- Subject nouns and pronouns
- Conjugating -er verbs
- Conjugating -ir verbs
- Conjugating -re verbs
- Using shoe verbs properly
- Conjugating other irregular verbs
- Speaking in the present

In this chapter you'll learn how to conjugate verbs in the present tense so that they agree with their subject noun or pronoun. By the end of the lesson you will be able to speak, read, and write entire sentences in French.
SUBJECT NOUNS AND PRONOUNS

A pronoun is a word that is used to replace a noun (a person, place, thing, idea, or quality). A subject pronoun replaces a subject noun (the noun performing the action of the verb). Pronouns are extremely useful because they allow for fluidity by eliminating the need to constantly repeat the same noun when speaking or writing. Just as in English, the French subject pronouns are given a person (first, second, or third) and a number (singular or plural):

**Subject Pronouns**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERSON</th>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>first</td>
<td>je (zhuh) I</td>
<td>nous (noo) we</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>second</td>
<td>tu (tew) you</td>
<td>vous (voo) you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>third</td>
<td>il (eel) he, it</td>
<td>ils (eel) they</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>elle (ehl) she, it</td>
<td>elles (ehl) they</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>on (ohN) one, you,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>we, they</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note the following about French subject pronouns:

- Unlike the English pronoun I, the pronoun je is capitalized only when it begins a sentence. In all other instances, je remains in lower case. Je becomes j’ before a vowel or vowel sound ( unaspirated h and y): j’aime le français. (I like French.) Voilà la maison où j’habite. (There’s the house where I live.)
- The subject pronoun tu is used to address one friend, relative, child, or pet and, for this reason, is referred to as the familiar, or informal, form of you. The u from tu is never dropped for purposes of elision: tu arrives.
- The subject pronoun vous is used in the singular to show respect to an older person or when you’re speaking to a stranger or someone you don’t know very well. For this reason, vous is referred to as the polite or formal form of you. Vous is always used when you’re speaking to more than one person, regardless of the degree of familiarity.
- The subject pronouns il and elle may refer to a person (he, she) or to a thing (it):
  
  Le garçon arrive. Il arrive. The boy arrives. He arrives.

  Le colis arrive. Il arrive. The package arrives. It arrives.
La fille arrive. Elle arrive. The girl arrives. She arrives.
La lettre arrive. Elle arrive. The letter arrives. It arrives.

- On means “one” or “someone.” It may also refer to an indefinite you, we, they, or people in general. On is often used in place of nous: On sort. (We’re going out.)
- The subject pronoun ils is used to refer to more than one male or masculine object, or to a combined group of males and females or masculine and feminine objects, despite the number of each gender present. Elles refers only to a group of females or feminine objects: Anne et Luc sortent. Ils sortent; Anne et Marie sortent. Elles sortent.

VERBS
A verb expresses an action or state of being and is generally shown in its infinitive, the basic “to” form: to live, to laugh, to love. An infinitive is the form of the verb before it has been conjugated. Conjugation refers to changing the ending of the verb so that it agrees with the subject noun or pronoun. Although we do this automatically in English, it will take some thought and practice in French until verb endings and patterns become second nature.

Here is an example of a verb conjugated in English.

**to love**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERSON</th>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>first</td>
<td>I love</td>
<td>we love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>second</td>
<td>you love</td>
<td>you love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>third</td>
<td>he loves</td>
<td>they love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>she loves</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>it loves</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notice that the verb is rather simple and is written in only two ways. In French, you need to know more ways to write the verb and memorize more verb endings. Keep in mind that, as in English, you cannot mix and match subjects and verb forms; each subject has its own personalized matching verb form that never changes.

**Conjugating Regular Verbs**
French has regular verbs that are grouped into three main families: -er, -ir, and -re verbs. The families are so named because the verb infinitives
end in -er, -ir, or -re. Each verb within its respective family follows the same rules of conjugation. After you've learned the pattern for one family, you know the pattern for all the verbs within that family. This rule applies regardless of the tense being used.

Tense refers to the time period when the action is taking place. This chapter concentrates on the present tense, what is happening here and now.

**Conjugating -er Verbs.** The -er family is, by far, the largest and most widely used verb family. To form the present tense of -er verbs, drop the -er from the infinitive and add the following endings, indicated in bold, for each subject pronoun. The table below shows what the verb parler (to speak) looks like when it is conjugated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>je parle</td>
<td>zhuh pahrI</td>
<td>I speak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu parles</td>
<td>tew pahrI</td>
<td>you speak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il parle</td>
<td>eel pahrI</td>
<td>he speaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elle parle</td>
<td>ehl pahrI</td>
<td>she speaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on parle</td>
<td>ohN pahrI</td>
<td>one speaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous parlons</td>
<td>noo pahr-lohN</td>
<td>we speak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vous parlez</td>
<td>voo pahr-lay</td>
<td>you speak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ils parlent</td>
<td>eel pahrI</td>
<td>they speak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elles parlent</td>
<td>ehl pahrI</td>
<td>they speak</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that the je, tu, il, elle, on, ils, and elles forms of -er verbs all have the same pronunciation despite differences in spelling (the same applies to -ir and -re verbs). The -ent of the third person plural is not pronounced.

The present-tense form in French has several possible equivalents in English. *Je parle*, for example, can mean “I speak”, “I do speak”, or “I am speaking.”

You should now be able to conjugate the common -er verbs given below. Take note of all the cognates, marked with an asterisk (*), which will make communication in French a much easier task:
*accompagner (ah-kohN-pah-nyay), to accompany
*adorer (ah-doh-ray), to adore
*aider (eh-day), to help
  aimer (eh-may), to like, love
  apporter (ah-pohr-tay), to bring
*arriver (ah-ree-vay), to arrive
  chercher (shehr-shay), to look for
*commander (koh-mahN-day), to order
  coûter (koo-tay), to cost
*demander (duh-mahN-day), to ask (for)
  dépenser (day-pahN-say), to spend
*désirer (day-zee-ray), to desire
*dîner (dee-nay), to dine
  donner (doh-nay), to give
  écouter (ay-koo-tay), to listen (to)
  emprunter (ahN-pruhN-tay), to borrow
*entrer (ahN-tray), to enter
  étudier (ay-tew-dyay), to study
*expliquer (ehks-plee-kay), to explain
  fermer (fehr-may), to close
*garder (gahr-day), to keep, look after
  habiter (ah-bee-tay), to live (in)
*indiquer (aN-dee-kay), to indicate
  jouer (zhoo-ay), to play
  monter (mohN-tay), to go up
  montrer (mohN-tray), to show
  oublier (oo-blee-yay), to forget
  passer (pah-say), to spend (time), pass
definir (pahN-say), to think
pousser (poo-say), to push
*présenter (pray-zahN-tay), to introduce
prêté (preh-tay), to lend
*regarder (ruh-gahr-day), to look at, watch
*réparer (ray-pah-ray), to repair
rester (rehs-tay), to remain, stay
*retourner (ruh-toor-nay), to return (to a place)
*téléphoner (tay-lay-foh-nay), to call
travailler (trah-vah-yay), to work
trouver (troo-vay), to find

**Conjugating -ir Verbs.** The -ir verb family is much smaller than the -er verb family. To form the present tense of -ir verbs, drop the -ir from the infinitive and add the following endings, indicated in bold, for each subject pronoun.

**choisir** (shwah-seer), to choose

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>je choisis</td>
<td>zhuh shwah-see</td>
<td>I choose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu choisis</td>
<td>tew shwah-zee</td>
<td>you choose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il choisit</td>
<td>eel shwah-zee</td>
<td>he chooses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elle choisit</td>
<td>ehl shwah-zee</td>
<td>she chooses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on choisit</td>
<td>ohN shwah-zee</td>
<td>one chooses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous choisissons</td>
<td>noo shwah-zee-sohN</td>
<td>we choose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vous choisissez</td>
<td>voo shwah-zee-say</td>
<td>you choose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ils choisissent</td>
<td>eel shwah-zees</td>
<td>they choose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elles choisissent</td>
<td>ehl shwah-zees</td>
<td>they choose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here is a list of common -ir verbs that you should know. Notice that this list is much smaller than the one for -er verbs. The asterisk (*) points out easily recognizable cognates.

*accomplir (ah-kohN-pleer), to accomplish
agir (ah-zheer), to act
avertir (ah-vehr-teer), to warn
*établir (ay-tah-bleer), to establish
*finir (fee-neer), to finish
guérir (gay-reer), to cure
jouir (de) (zhoo-eer [duh]), to enjoy
*punir (pew-neer), to punish
réfléchir (ray-flay-sheer), to reflect, think
remplir (rahN-pleer), to fill (up/out)

Conjugating -re Verbs. The -re family is the smallest verb family. To form the present tense of -re verbs, drop the -re from the infinitive and add the following endings, indicated in bold, for each subject pronoun.

**vendre (vahNdr), to sell**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>je vend</td>
<td>zhuh vahN</td>
<td>I sell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu vend</td>
<td>tew vahN</td>
<td>you sell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il vend</td>
<td>eel vahN</td>
<td>he sells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elle vend</td>
<td>ehl vahN</td>
<td>she sells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on vend</td>
<td>ohN vahN</td>
<td>one sells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous vendons</td>
<td>noo vahN-dohN</td>
<td>we sell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vous vendez</td>
<td>voo vahN-day</td>
<td>you sell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ils vendent</td>
<td>eel vahNd</td>
<td>they sell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elles vendent</td>
<td>ehl vahNd</td>
<td>they sell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Common -re verbs are listed below. An asterisk (*) indicates a cognate.

attendre (ah-tahNdr), to wait (for)
*correspondre (koh-rehs-pohNdr), to correspond
corrompre (koh-rohNpr), to corrupt
*défendre (day-fahNdr), to defend
*descendre (deh-sahNdr), to go down
entendre (ah-tahNdr), to hear
*interrompre (aN-teh-rohNpr), to interrupt
perdre (pehrdr), to lose
rendre (rahNdr), to give back, return
*répondre (à) (ray-pohNdr [ah]), to answer
rompre (rohNpr), to break

NOTE

There are three exceptions to the -re verb rule: The verbs rompre
(to break), corrompre (to corrupt), and *interrompre (to interrupt) end
in -t in the third person singular: il rompt, il corrompt, il interrompt.

SHOE VERBS

Verbs with certain spelling changes and irregularities are referred to as
shoe verbs because the subject pronouns that follow one set of rules can
be placed inside the shoe, and the other subject pronouns remain outside
the shoe. To make this clearer, look at the pronouns that go in and out
of the shoe:

Verbs Ending in -cer

For verbs ending in -cer, change c to ç before a or o to retain the soft
c (s) sound.

*avancer (ah-vahN-say), to advance

j’avance (ah-vahNs) nous avançons (ah-vahNs-sohN)
tu avances (ah-vahNs) vous avancez (ah-vahN-say)
il, elle, on avance (ah-vahNs) ils, elles avancent (ah-vahNs)
Other -cer verbs like avancer are: *annoncer (ah-nohN-say), *commencer (koh-mahN-say), *menacer (muh-nah-say), *placer (plah-say), remplacer (rahN-plah-say) to replace, and *renoncer à (ruh-nohN-say ah).

**Verbs Ending in -ger**
For verbs ending in -ger, insert a silent e between g and a and between g and o to keep the soft g (zh) sound.

*manger* (mahN-zhay), to eat

*je mange* (mahNzh)  
*nous mangeons* (mahN-zhohN)
*tu manges* (mahNzh)  
*vous mangez* (mahN-zhay)
*il, elle, on mange* (mahNzh)  
*ils, elles mangent* (mahNzh)

Other -ger verbs like manger are: *arranger* (ah-rahN-zhay), *changer* (shahN-zhay), corriger (koh-ree-zhay) to correct, déranger (day-rahN-zhay) to disturb, diriger (dee-ree-zhay) to direct, nager (nah-zhay) to swim, *obliger* (oh-blee-zhay), partager (pahr-tah-zhay) to share, and ranger (rahN-zhay) to tidy.

**Verbs Ending in -yer**
In -yer verbs, the y is kept in the nous and vous forms. An i is used instead of y within the shoe.

*employer* (ahN-plwah-yay), to use

*j'emploie* (ahN-plwah)  
*nous employons* (ahN-plwah-yohn)
*tu emploies* (ahN-plwah)  
*vous employez* (ahN-plwah-yay)
*il, elle, on emploie* (ahN-plwah)  
*ils emploient* (ahN-plwah)

Other -yer verbs include: ennuyer (ahN-nwee-yay) to bother, envoyer (ahN-vwah-yay) to send, and nettoyer (neh-twah-yay) to clean.

**NOTE**
Verbs ending in -ayer: *payer* (peh-yay) and essayer (eh-say-yay [duh]) to try (to), may or may not change y to i in the forms in the shoe. The change is optional for -ayer verbs only.

**e + Consonant + er Verbs**
For verbs with a silent e in the syllable before the -er ending, change the silent e to è for all forms in the shoe. Within the shoe, all the endings of the verbs are silent.
acheter (ahsh-tay), to buy

j’achète (ahsheht) nous achetons (ahsh-tohN)
tu achètes (ahsheht) vous achetez (ahsh-tay)
il, elle, on achète (ahsheht) ils, elles achètent (ahsheht)

Other verbs in this category include: achever (ahsh-vay) to finish; amener (ahm-nay) to bring, lead to; emmener (ahN-mnay) to take, lead away; enlever (ahN-lvay) to take off, remove; peser (puh-zay) to weigh; and promener (prohm-nay) to walk.

Two verbs in this category that double the consonant before the -er ending rather than add an accent grave are appeler (to call) and jeter (to throw).

appeler (ah-neh-law), to call

j’appelle (ah-pahl) nous appelons (ah-plohN)
tu appelles (ah-pahl) vous appelez (ah-play)
il, elle, on appelle (ah-pahl) ils, elles appellent (ah-pahl)

jeter (zhuh-tay), to throw

je jette (zheht) nous jetons (zhuh-tohN)
tu jettes (zheht) vous jetez (zhuh-tay)
il, elle, on jette (zheht) ils, elles jettent (zheht)

é + Consonant + er Verbs

For verbs with é in the syllable before the infinitive ending, change é to è only within the shoe, where the conjugated verb form endings remain silent.

répéter (ray-pay-tay), to repeat

je répète (ray-peht) nous répétons (ray-pay-tohN)
tu répètes (ray-peht) vous répétez (ray-pay-tay)
il, elle, on répète (ray-peht) ils, elles répètent (ray-peht)

Other é + consonant + er verbs include: *célébrer (say-lay-bray), espérer (ehs-pay-ray) to hope, *posséder (poh-say-day), *préférer (pray-fay-ray), and protéger (proh-tay-zhay) to protect.
IRREGULAR VERBS

A good number of high-frequency French verbs are irregular. Irregular verbs follow no specific rules of conjugation, so you must memorize them. Some of these verbs are used in idiomatic expressions, and knowing them can help you to speak more colloquially.

An idiom is a particular word or expression whose meaning cannot be readily understood by either its grammar or the words used. Idiomatic expressions cannot be translated word for word without causing confusion. Imagine trying to grammatically explain to a non-native English speaker the meaning of the expression: “It’s raining cats and dogs.”

The following high-frequency verbs have irregular forms in the present tense. You should commit them to memory because you will use them often.

*aller (ah-lay), to go*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Tense</th>
<th>Plural Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>je vais (veh)</td>
<td>nous allons (ah-lohN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu vas (vah)</td>
<td>vous allez (ah-lay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il va (vah)</td>
<td>ils vont (vohN)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Aller* is used idiomatically to describe a person’s health. The construction is *aller* + an adverb that expresses a feeling or a state of being: *Je vais bien.* (I'm fine.)

*Aller* is also used to say what someone is going to do: *Je vais aller en France.* (I'm going to go to France.)

*avoir (ah-vwahr), to have*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Tense</th>
<th>Plural Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>j'ai (ay)</td>
<td>nous avons (ah-vohN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu as (ah)</td>
<td>vous avez (ah-vay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il a (ah)</td>
<td>ils ont (ohN)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although English speakers use the verb “to be” when speaking about certain physical conditions, French speakers use the verb “to have” (*avoir*) plus a noun to express the same thought. The most common idiomatic expressions that use the verb *avoir* are:

*avoir . . . ans, to be . . . years old: J'ai six ans. (I'm six years old.)*

*avoir l'air, to appear: Il a l'air fatigué. (He appears tired.)*

*avoir besoin de, to need: Tu as besoin d'un livre? (Do you need a book?)*

*avoir chaud, to be hot: J'ai chaud. (I'm hot.)*
avoir de la chance, to be lucky: Nous avons de la chance. (We are lucky.)

avoir froid, to be cold: Elle a froid. (She's cold.)

avoir envie de, to feel like: Vous avez envie de danser? (Do you feel like dancing?)

avoir faim, to be hungry: Ils ont faim. (They are hungry.)

avoir soif, to be thirsty: Elles ont soif. (They are thirsty.)

avoir lieu, to take place: La fête a lieu chez elle. (The party is at her house.)

avoir mal à, to have an ache: J'ai mal aux dents. (I have a toothache.)

avoir peur (de), to be afraid of: Il a peur des animaux. (He's afraid of animals.)

avoir raison, to be right: Tu as raison. (You're right.)

avoir tort, to be wrong: Elles ont tort. (They're wrong.)

avoir sommeil, to be sleepy: Nous avons sommeil. (We're sleepy.)

boire (bwahr), to drink

je bois (bwah)  nous buvons (bew-voIN)
tu bois (bwah)  vous buvez (bew-vay)
il boit (bwah)   ils boivent (bwahv)

conduire (kohn-dweer), to drive

je conduis (kohn-dwee)  nous conduisons (kohn-dwee-zohN)
tu conduis (kohn-dwee)  vous conduisez (kohn-dwee-zay)
il conduit (kohn-dwee)   ils conduisent (kohn-dweez)

connaître (kohn-nehtr), to know, be acquainted with

je connais (kohn-neh)  nous connaissons (kohn-neh-sohN)
tu connais (kohn-neh)  vous connaissiez (kohn-neh-say)
il connaît (kohn-neh)   ils connaissent (kohn-nehS)

croire (krwahr), to believe

je crois (krwah)  nous croyons (krwah-yohN)
tu crois (krwah) vous croyez (krwah-yay)
il croit (krwah) ils croient (krwah)

devoir (duh-vwahr), to have to, owe
je dois (dwah) nous devons (duh-vohN)
tu dois (dwah) vous devez (duh-vay)
il doit (dwah) ils doivent (dwahv)

dire (deer), to say, tell
je dis (dee) nous disons (dee-zohN)
tu dis (dee) vous dites (deet)
il dit (dee) ils disent (deez)

dormir (doehr-meer), to sleep
je dors (dohr) nous dormons (dohr-mohN)
tu dors (dohr) vous dormez (dohr-may)
il dort (dohr) ils dorment (dohrm)

Verbs conjugated like dormir keep the final consonant before the -ir ending in all plural forms. These verbs are: mentir (mahN-teer) to lie; partir (pahr-teer) to go away; sentir (sahN-teer) to feel, smell; *servir (sehr-veer); and sortir (sohr-teer) to go out. Examples: Nous partons. (We’re leaving.) Ils servent le dîner. (They’re serving dinner.)

écire (ay-kreer), to write
j’écris (ay-kree) nous écrivons (ay-kree-vohN)
tu écris (ay-kree) vous écrivez (ay-kree-vay)
il écrit (ay-kree) ils écrivent (ay-kreev)

être (ehtr), to be
je suis (swee) nous sommes (sohm)
tu es (eh) vous êtes (eht)
il est (eh) ils sont (sohN)
Three important idioms using être are:

- être à, to belong to: Ce livre est à Jean. (This book belongs to John.)
- être en train de, to be in the act (middle) of: Je suis en train de parler. (I’m in the middle of speaking.)
- être sur le point de, to be on the verge of, about to: Le train est sur le point de partir. (The train is about to leave.)

faire (fehr), to make, do

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1st Person Singular</th>
<th>2nd Person Singular</th>
<th>3rd Person Singular</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>je</td>
<td>fais (feh)</td>
<td>tu fais (feh)</td>
<td>il fait (feh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous</td>
<td>faisons (fuh-zohN)</td>
<td>vous faites (feht)</td>
<td>ils font (fohN)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A few important idioms with faire are:

- faire attention (à), to pay attention to: Il fait attention aux détails. (He pays attention to the details.)
- faire la connaissance de, to meet (make the acquaintance of someone): Il fait la connaissance de M. Leblanc. (He is meeting Mr. Leblanc.)
- faire un voyage, to take a trip: Je fais un voyage au Canada. (I’m taking a trip to Canada.)

Faire is also used idiomatically to describe the weather:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What's the weather?</th>
<th>The weather is fine.</th>
<th>It’s beautiful.</th>
<th>It’s hot.</th>
<th>It’s sunny.</th>
<th>It’s cool.</th>
<th>It’s cold.</th>
<th>It’s windy.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The verb faire is used to express that the subject plays a sport: Roger fait du tennis. (Roger plays tennis.)
### 22:00 - WORKING WITH PRESENT-TENSE VERBS

**lire** (*leer*), to read

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>je lis (lee)</th>
<th>nous lisons (lee-zohN)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tu lis</td>
<td>vous lisez</td>
<td>(lee-zay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il lit</td>
<td>ils lisent</td>
<td>(leez)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**mettre** (*mehtr*), to put (on)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>je mets (meh)</th>
<th>nous mettons (meh-tohN)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tu mets</td>
<td>vous mettez</td>
<td>(meh-tay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il met</td>
<td>ils mettent</td>
<td>(meht)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**offrir** (*oh-freer*), to offer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>j'offre (ohfr)</th>
<th>nous offrons (oh-frohN)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tu offres</td>
<td>vous offrez</td>
<td>(oh-fray)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il offre</td>
<td>ils offrent</td>
<td>(ohfr)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ouvrir** (*oo-vreer*), to open

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>j'ouvre (oovr)</th>
<th>nous ouvrons (oo-vrohN)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tu ouvres</td>
<td>vous ouvrez</td>
<td>(oo-vray)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il ouvre</td>
<td>ils ouvrent</td>
<td>(oovr)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**pouvoir** (*poo-vwahr*), to be able to

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>je peux (puh)</th>
<th>nous pouvons (poo-vohN)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tu peux</td>
<td>vous pouvez</td>
<td>(poo-vay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il peut</td>
<td>ils peuvent</td>
<td>(puhv)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**prendre** (*prahNdr*), to take

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>je prends (prahN)</th>
<th>nous prenons (pruh-nohN)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tu prends</td>
<td>vous prenez</td>
<td>(pruh-nay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il prend</td>
<td>ils prennent</td>
<td>(prehn)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**recevoir** (*ruh-suh-vwahr*), to receive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>je reçois (ruh-swah)</th>
<th>nous recevons (ruh-suh-voHN)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tu reçois</td>
<td>vous recevez</td>
<td>(ruh-suh-vay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il reçoit</td>
<td>ils reçoivent</td>
<td>(ruh-swahv)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**savoir (sah-vwahr), to know a fact**

je sais (seh)  
ou nous savons (sah-voN)

tu sais (seh)  
vous savez (sah-vay)

il sait (seh)  
ils savent (sahv)

**venir (vuh-neer), to come**

je viens (vyaN)  
ou nous venons (vuh-nohN)

tu viens (vyaN)  
vous venez (vuh-nay)

il vient (vyaN)  
ils viennent (vyehN)

**NOTE**

Use the expression *venir de* + infinitive to show that the subject has just done something: *Je viens de manger.* (I just ate.) *Ils viennent d’arriver.*

(They just arrived.)

**voir (vwahr), to see**

je vois (vwah)  
ou nous voyons (vwah-yohN)

tu vois (vwah)  
vous voyez (vwah-yay)

il voit (vwah)  
ils voient (vwah)

**vouloir (voo-lwahr), to want**

je veux (vuh)  
ou nous voulons (voo-lohN)

tu veux (vuh)  
vous voulez (voo-lay)

il veut (vuh)  
ils veulent (vuhl)

If a larger verb form contains an irregular verb that you recognize, the chances are great that the conjugation endings are the same as those of the smaller verb. For example, *mettre* is contained in *commettre* (to commit), *permettre* (to permit), *promettre* (to promise), and *remettre* (to put back). All are conjugated like *mettre*.

Verbs conjugated like *prendre* include *apprendre* (ah-prahNdr) to learn and *comprendre* (kohN-prahNdr) to understand.

When it is necessary to use two verbs in succession, the first verb is conjugated and the second verb remains in the infinitive: *Je veux sortir.* (I want to go out.) *Ils peuvent danser.* (They can dance.)
USES OF THE PRESENT TENSE

- The present tense is customarily used instead of the future to ask for instructions or to discuss an action that will take place in the immediate future: *Je prépare le dîner?* (Shall I prepare dinner?) *Je te vois dans cinq minutes.* (I’ll see you in five minutes.)

- To express an event that began in the past and is continuing in the present, use the following formula: present tense + *depuis* + an expression of time. *Je cherche mon livre depuis une demi-heure.* (I’ve been looking for my book for a half hour.) *Ils habitent à Paris depuis 1996.* (They’ve been living in Paris since 1996.)

- The construction *il y a* + expression of time + *que* + present also expresses a past action that is continuing in the present: *Il y a un an que j’étudie le français* (I’ve been studying French for a year).

**TIME’S UP!**

Complete this very simple story about a boy and his friend. Conjugate the verbs carefully.


The Past Tense
(The Passé Composé)

MASTER THESE SKILLS

• Using the passé composé with avoir
• Using the passé composé with être
• Forming the imperfect and the pluperfect
• Distinguishing when to use the passé composé and the imperfect
• Using the passé simple

In this chapter you’ll learn when to use the passé composé and when to use the imperfect. You’ll also learn how to recognize the passé simple (the past definite), a literary and historic tense.
FORMING THE PASSÉ COMPOSÉ WITH AVOIR

The compound past (past indefinite), which expresses an action or event completed in the past, is referred to in French as the passé composé. The word compound indicates that this tense is made up of more than one part. In fact, the passé composé is made up of two elements—the helping verb, which expresses when the action took place, and the main verb, which expresses what action took place.

The passé composé of most French verbs, therefore, is formed by combining the present tense of avoir (the helping verb) and the past participle of the verb expressing the action. Take a look at the following diagram.

```
Formation of the Passé Composé
when + what
/    \
helping verb + main verb
   /    \
avoir (to have) + past participle
```

Simply stated, the formula for the formation of the passé composé is:

subject (noun or pronoun) + helping verb + past participle

The following sections explain in more detail how to form the two parts of the passé composé.

The Helping Verb Avoir

In English, the helping verb is “to have.” Because avoir means “to have,” it is only logical that it would serve as the helping verb in French. First, avoir must be conjugated in the present tense:

- j’ai
- nous avons
- tu as
- vous avez
- il, elle, on a
- ils, elles ont

To this conjugation, you must now add a past participle.

Past Participles

The past participle generally expresses an action that has been completed in the past. In English, past participles are used to form the perfect tenses in the active voice and all tenses in the passive voice. In
regular verbs the past participle is usually formed by adding -d or -ed. Study the following sections to learn how to form past participles in French.

**Regular Verbs.** The past participle of regular verbs is formed by dropping the infinitive endings and adding -é for -er verbs, -i for -ir verbs, and -u for -re verbs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-ER VERBS</th>
<th>-IR VERBS</th>
<th>-RE VERBS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aimer</td>
<td>finir</td>
<td>perdre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to love</td>
<td>to finish</td>
<td>to lose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The past participle usually remains the same for every subject, regardless of gender or number. Only the helping verb changes:

- J’ai joué.  
- Nous avons joué.
- Tu as joué.  
- Vous avez joué.
- Il (elle, on) a joué.  
- Ils (elles) ont joué.

**Irregular Verbs.** Although irregular verbs also have irregular past participles, they can be grouped according to their endings, in most cases:

- Past participles ending in -u:

  - avoir  
  - boire  
  - connaître  
  - croire  
  - devoir  
  - lire  
  - pleuvoir  
  - pouvoir  
  - recevoir  
  - savoir  
  - voir  
  - vouloir  

  eu (ew)  
  bu (bew)  
  connu (koh-new)  
  cru (krew)  
  dû (dew)  
  lu (lew)  
  plu (plew)  
  pu (pew)  
  reçu (ruh-sew)  
  su (sew)  
  vu (vew)  
  voulu (voo-lew)  

  had  
  drank  
  known  
  believed  
  had to, owed  
  read  
  rained  
  was able to  
  received  
  known  
  seen  
  wanted
• Past participles ending in -is:
  mettre mis (mee) put (on)
  prendre pris (pree) took

• Past participles ending in -it:
  conduire conduit (kohN-dwee) driven, drove
  dire dit (dee) said, told
  écrire écrit (ay-kree) written, wrote

• Irregular past participles:
  être été (ay-tay) been
  faire fait (feh) made, done
  offrir offert (oh-fehr) offered
  ouvrir ouvert (oo-vehr) opened

NOTE
If an irregular verb is contained within a larger verb, both generally form their past participles in the same way: mettre changes to mis; permettre changes to permis; ouvrir changes to ouvert; couvrir changes to couvert.

USING THE PASSÉ COMPOSÉ WITH ÊTRE
The passé composé of 17 verbs is formed by combining the present tense of être and the past participle of the verb. Most of these verbs express motion or a change of place, state, or condition, that is, going up, down, in, or out or remaining, in a house, perhaps.

DR. and MRS. VANDERTRAMPP are the inhabitants of this house. This mnemonic device may be helpful as you try to commit these 17 verbs to memory. When you read, notice that most verbs that take être as their helping verb have regular past participles. The few that don’t, show an asterisk (*) before the past participle.

Verbs Using Être in the Passé Composé

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LETTER</th>
<th>INFINITIVE</th>
<th>PAST PARTICIPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>devenir (to become)</td>
<td>*devenu (duh-vuh-new)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>revenir (to come back)</td>
<td>*revenu (ruh-vuh-new)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>mourir (to die)</td>
<td>*mort (mohr)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First, conjugate être in the present tense:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Present Tense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>je suis</td>
<td>nous sommes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu es</td>
<td>vous êtes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il, elle, on est</td>
<td>ils, elles sont</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To form the passé composé, you must now add a past participle: Je suis allé au parc. (I went to the park.)

**FORMING THE PASSÉ COMPOSÉ WITH ÊTRE**

Unlike verbs that use avoir as their helping verb, verbs that use être have past participles that agree in number (singular or plural [add s]) and gender (masculine or feminine [add e]) with the subject noun or pronoun. Note how the past participle differs with different subjects:

**Agreement of Past Participles**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Masculine Subjects</th>
<th>Feminine Subjects</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>je suis arrivé</td>
<td>je suis arrivée</td>
<td>I (have) arrived</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu es arrivé</td>
<td>tu es arrivée</td>
<td>you (have) arrived</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est arrivé</td>
<td>elle est arrivée</td>
<td>he/she (has) arrived</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
nous sommes arrivés  nous sommes arrivées  we (have) arrived
vous êtes arrivé(s)  vous êtes arrivée(s)  you (have) arrived
ils sont arrivés  elles sont arrivées  they (have) arrived

* Note that vous can be a singular or plural subject for both masculine and feminine subjects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vous êtes parti.</td>
<td>Vous êtes partis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vous êtes partie.</td>
<td>Vous êtes parties.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* For a mixed group, always use the masculine form.

Jean et Marc sont venus.
Marie et Anne sont venues.
Jean et Marie sont venus.

* If the masculine past participle ends in an unpronounced consonant, you should pronounce the consonant for the feminine singular and plural forms:

  Il est mort. (eel eh mohr)   Ils sont morts. (eelN sohN mohr)
  Elle est morte. (ehl eh mohrt) Elles sont mortes. (ehlN sohN mohrt)

**SPECIAL VERBS**
The verbs descendre, monter, passer, rentrer, retourner, and sortir are listed as verbs that use être as their helping verb, because this is generally the case. They may, however, take avoir as their helping verb when they are used with a direct object. A direct object answers what or whom the subject is acting upon. Notice how the meaning of these verbs changes depending on the helping verb that is used and how there is number and/or gender agreement with être but not with avoir:

  Il est descendu du bus.    He got off the bus.
  Il a descendu l'escalier. He went downstairs.
  Il a descendu ses bagages. He took his bags downstairs.
  Elle est montée dans sa chambre. She went up to her room.
  Elle a monté l'escalier. She went upstairs.
  Elle a monté sa valise. She took her suitcase upstairs.
Tu es passé(e) chez Luc. You passed by Luke’s house.
Tu as passé un mois en France. You spent a month in France.
Je suis rentré(e) tôt. I came home early.
J’ai rentré les chaises de jardin. I brought in the garden chairs.
Elle est retournée à Paris. She returned to Paris.
Elle a retourné la robe. She returned the dress.
Elles sont sorties hier soir. They went out last night.
Elles ont sorti leur argent. They took out their money.

NOTE
To express that an event has just occurred, you may use a subject noun
or pronoun + the present tense of venir + de (d’ before a vowel or vowel
sound) + an infinitive in place of the passé composé: Il vient de sortir.
(He just left.)

THE IMPERFECT
The imperfect (or l’imparfait) expresses a continuing state or an incom-
plete action in the past; in other words, an action that was going on at
an indefinite time in the past: La porte était ouverte. (The door was
open.) Ils regardaient la télévision. (They were watching television.)

Regular Verbs
The imperfect of regular verbs is formed by dropping the -ons ending of
the nous form of the present tense of regular verbs and all irregular verbs
except être and adding the endings highlighted in bold.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-ER VERBS</th>
<th>-IR VERBS</th>
<th>-RE VERBS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>diner (to dine)</td>
<td>obéir (to obey)</td>
<td>vendre (to sell)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous dinons</td>
<td>nous obéissons</td>
<td>nous vendons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>je dinais</td>
<td>j’obéisais</td>
<td>je vendais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu dinais</td>
<td>tu obéisais</td>
<td>tu vendais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il dinait</td>
<td>elle obéisait</td>
<td>on vendait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous dinions</td>
<td>nous obéissons</td>
<td>nous vendions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vous dinez</td>
<td>vous obéisiez</td>
<td>vous vendiez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ils dinaint</td>
<td>ils obéisiaient</td>
<td>elles vendaient</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Shoe Verbs
Only two categories of verbs with spelling changes need a closer look in the imperfect:

- Verbs ending in -cer change c to ç before a to keep the soft c (s) sound. The change occurs inside the shoe only:
  je plaçais     nous placions
  tu plaçais    vous placiez
  il plaçait    ils plaçaient

- Verbs ending in -ger insert a silent e between g and a to keep the soft g (zh) sound. The change occurs inside the shoe only:
  je mangeais   nous mangions
  tu mangeais   vous mangiez
  il mangeait   ils mangeaient

For more on shoe verbs see Chapter 22:00.

The Imperfect of Être
The only verb that is irregular in the imperfect is être:
  j’étais        nous étions
  tu étais      vous étiez
  il, elle, on était ils, elles étaient

The Imperfect of Irregular Verbs
You form the imperfect of irregular verbs in the same manner as the imperfect of regular verbs. It is, therefore, very important to remember the correct present tense nous form of these verbs.

  aller (to go)         nous allons
  avoir (to have)      nous avons
  boire (to drink)     nous buvons
  conduire (to drive)  nous conduisons
  connaître (to know)  nous connaissons
  croire (to believe)  nous croyons
  devoir (to have to)   nous devons
Simply drop the -ons and add the imperfect endings: Il venait toujours en retard. (He always came late.)

**NOTE**

1. To distinguish tenses, verbs ending in -ions in the present have an additional i before the -ions and the -iez imperfect endings: nous étudions, vous vérifiez.

2. Two irregular verbs that are only used in the third person singular form in the imperfect are: falloir (to be necessary), il fallait; and pleuvoir (to rain), il pleuvait.

**DECIDING WHEN TO USE THE PASSÉ COMPOSÉ OR THE IMPERFECT**

The passé composé expresses an action that was completed at a specific time in the past. Think of the action as one moment in time. Think, too, of a camera. The passé composé represents an action that could be captured by a photograph—the action happened and was completed.
The imperfect, on the other hand, expresses an action that continued in the past over an indefinite period of time. Think of the action as a wavy line. Think again of a camera. The imperfect represents an action that could be captured by a video camera—the action continued over a period of time; it was happening, used to happen, or would (meaning “used to”) happen.

**Clues to the Passé Composé and the Imperfect**
The following words and expressions often require the use of the passé composé because they specify a time period:

- l’année passée (lah-nay pah-say), last year
- avant-hier (ah-vahN yehr), the day before yesterday
- d’abord (dah-bohr), at first
- enfin (ahN-faN), finally
- ensuite (ahN-sweet), then, next
- l’été passé (lay-tay pah-say), last summer
- finalement (fee-nahl-mahN), finally
- une fois (ewn fwaH), one time
- hier (yehr), yesterday
- hier soir (yehr swahr), last night
- l’autre jour (lotr zhoor), the other day
- ce jour-là (suh zhoor lah), that day
- un jour (uhN zhoor), one day
- le mois passé (luh mwah pah-say), last month
- soudain (soo-daN), suddenly

Use the imperfect with these expressions that generally imply repetition:

- autrefois (otr-fwaH), formerly
- chaque jour/semaine (shahk zhoor/suh-mehN), each (every) day/week
- chaque mois/année (shahk mwah/ah-nay), each (every) month/year
- de temps en temps (duh tahN zahN tahN), from time to time
- d’habitude (dah-bee-tewd), usually
- en ce temps-là (ahN suh tahN lah), at that time
fréquemment (fray-keh-mahN), frequently
habituellement (ah-bee-tew-ehl-mahN), habitually
parfois (pahr-fwah), sometimes
souvent (soo-vahN), often
toujours (too-zhoor), always
tous les jours/mois (too lay zhoor/mwah), every day/month
tout le temps (too luh tahN), all the time

Use the imperfect with the following verbs when they are used to express a state of mind in the past:
aimer (eh-may), to like, love
croire (krwahr), to believe
désirer (day-zee-ray), to desire
espérer (ehs-pay-ray), to hope
être (ehtr), to be
penser (pahN-say), to think
pouvoir (poo-vwahr), to be able to
préférer (pray-fay-ray), to prefer
regretter (ruh-greh-tay), to regret, be sorry
savoir (sah-wvahr), to know (how)
vouloir (voow-lwahr), to want

When these verbs express a state of mind occurring at a specific time in the past, the passé composé is used:
Il ne pouvait pas venir. He couldn’t come.
Il n’a pas pu venir hier. He couldn’t come yesterday.

The basic uses of the passé composé and the imperfect are summarized below.

**Passé Composé**
- Expresses specific actions or events that were started and completed at a definite time in the past (even if the time isn’t mentioned):
  *Il a préparé le dîner.* (He prepared dinner.)
• Expresses a specific action or event that occurred at a specific point in past time: *Il est sorti hier.* (He went out yesterday.)
• Expresses a specific action or event that was repeated a stated number of times: *Jean est tombé deux fois.* (John fell two times.)

**Imperfect**

• Describes ongoing or continuous actions or events in the past (which may or may not have been completed): *Elle parlait à son ami.* (She was speaking to her friend.)
• Describes habitual or repeated actions in the past: *Il sortait souvent le soir.* (He often went out in the evening.)
• Describes a person, place, thing, or state of mind in the past:

  - Elle était triste. She was unhappy.
  - Le ciel était bleu. The sky was blue.
  - La fenêtre était ouverte. The window was open.
  - Ils voulaient partir. They wanted to leave.

**NOTE**

1. Use the imperfect to describe a situation that was going on in the past when another action or event took place. The action or event that took place is in the passé composé: *Je sortais quand le téléphone a sonné.* (I was going out when the telephone rang.)

2. *Would*, when it means “used to,” indicates the use of the imperfect. When it states what the subject would do under specific conditions, *would* indicates the use of the conditional, which is discussed in further detail in Chapter 20:00.

**THE PLUPERFECT**

Use the pluperfect (*le plus-que-parfait*) to describe an action that had been completed in the past before another past action took place. The pluperfect is actually the compound form of the imperfect. That means that it must be composed of two parts: the imperfect of the helping verb *avoir* or *être* (which expresses “had”) + the past participle of the verb indicating the action that took place. The *plus-que-parfait* is formed, then, as follows: imperfect of *avoir* or *être* + past participle.

  - Voici le livre que vous aviez demandé. Here is the book you had asked for.
Elle avait faim parce qu’elle n’avait rien mangé. She was hungry because she hadn’t eaten anything.

THE PASSÉ SIMPLE (THE PAST DEFINITE)
The simple past, known in French as the passé simple, is a simple tense that is composed of one single verb form. The passé simple is used to express a completed past action and is seen primarily in formal, literary, and historical writings. The passé composé, also used to express a completed past action, is used, on the other hand, mainly in conversation and informal writing.

You form the passé simple (the past definite) of regular verbs by dropping the infinitive ending -er, -ir, or -re and adding the endings indicated in bold.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARLER</th>
<th>FINIR</th>
<th>VENDRE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>je parlai</td>
<td>je finis</td>
<td>je vendis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu parlas</td>
<td>tu finis</td>
<td>tu vendis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il parla</td>
<td>elle finit</td>
<td>on vendit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous parlâmes</td>
<td>nous finîmes</td>
<td>nous vendîmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vous parlâtes</td>
<td>vous finîtes</td>
<td>vous vendîtes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ils parlèrent</td>
<td>ils finirent</td>
<td>elles vendirent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Passé Simple of Shoe Verbs
The only shoe verbs that necessitate a change in the passé simple are those that end in -cer and -ger. This means that all forms require a change except the ils plural form:

1. Verbs ending in -cer change c to ç before a to keep the soft c (s) sound: avancer: j’avançai, tu avanças, il avança, nous avançâmes, vous avançâtes, ils avancèrent.
2. Verbs ending in -ger insert silent e between g and a to keep the soft g (zh) sound. This means that all forms require a change except the ils plural form: voyager: je voyageai, tu voyageas, il voyagea, nous voyageâmes, vous voyageâtes, ils voyageèrent.

The Passé Simple of Irregular Verbs
All irregular verbs in the passé simple add the following endings to their stems. Note that the circumflex (^) goes above the vowel of the stem:

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>je</td>
<td>-s</td>
<td>nous ^mes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu</td>
<td>-s</td>
<td>vous ^tes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il, elle, on</td>
<td>-t</td>
<td>ils, elles -rent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You will find that the stem of the passé simple very often resembles, or is the same as, the past participle used for the passé composé. The following list shows the irregular verb stems for the passé simple:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFINITIVE</th>
<th>STEM</th>
<th>INFINITIVE</th>
<th>STEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>avoir</td>
<td>eu-</td>
<td>mettre</td>
<td>mi-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boire</td>
<td>bu-</td>
<td>mourir</td>
<td>mouru-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conduire</td>
<td>conduisi-</td>
<td>naître</td>
<td>naqui-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>connaître</td>
<td>connu-</td>
<td>offrir</td>
<td>offri-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>croire</td>
<td>cru-</td>
<td>ouvrir</td>
<td>ouvri-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>devoir</td>
<td>du-</td>
<td>pouvoir</td>
<td>pu-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dire</td>
<td>di-</td>
<td>prendre</td>
<td>pri-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dormir</td>
<td>dormi-</td>
<td>recevoir</td>
<td>reçu-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>écrire</td>
<td>écrivi-</td>
<td>savoir</td>
<td>su-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>être</td>
<td>fu-</td>
<td>venir</td>
<td>vin-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>faire</td>
<td>fi-</td>
<td>voir</td>
<td>vi-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lire</td>
<td>lu-</td>
<td>vouloir</td>
<td>voulu-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE**

1. The passé simple is rarely used conversationally. It is really only necessary to learn it and recognize that it is a past tense in written materials.

2. *Venir* (and related verbs such as *tenir, souvenir,* and so forth) is the only verb whose stem ends in a consonant. Add the circumflex accent over the *i* that precedes the *n: je vins, tu vins, il vint, nous vinmes, vous vînmes, ils vinrent.*
A l’âge de 14 ans j’ **aller** tous les jours à l’école parce qu’il y **avoir** un très beau garçon, Raymond, dans ma classe de français. En général, il **faire** rarement attention aux filles dans la classe parce qu’il **jouer** tous les jours au basket avec des amis. Mais un jour, il **rester** après les cours et il m’ **demander** mon numéro de téléphone. Il **vouloir** sortir avec moi et vraiment, j’ **être** très surprise. Nous **aller** au cinéma voir une histoire d’amour ridicule. C’est comme ça que je (j’) **faire** la connaissance de mon fiancé.
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Back to the Future

Speaking Conditionally

MASTER THESE SKILLS

- Forming and using the future
- Forming and using the conditional
- Using conditional sentences

In this chapter you will learn how to form, use, and differentiate between the future and the conditional. You will see that you have to pay careful attention to the verb endings and to what you are trying to express. And finally, you will learn how to use conditional sentences.
THE FUTURE
In French, the future may be expressed in three possible ways: by using the present, by using *aller* + infinitive, and by using the future tense.

Using the Present to Express the Future
The present tense may be used to imply the future when you’re asking for instructions or referring to an action that will take place in the immediate future. You will know when the future is implied by the present through the context of the conversation. *Je mets le livre ici?* (Shall I put the book here?) *Elle arrive bientôt.* (She will arrive soon.)

*Aller* + Infinitive
In French, as in English, the near future may be expressed with a form of the present tense of the verb *aller* (to go) plus the infinitive referring to the action that the speaker will perform. The near future is generally used for an action that is imminent—that is going to happen soon.

The irregular present tense of *aller* is conjugated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Je vais</th>
<th>Nous allons</th>
<th>Tu vas</th>
<th>Vous allez</th>
<th>Il va</th>
<th>Ils vont</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(zhu veh)</td>
<td>(nou zah-lohN)</td>
<td>(tew vah)</td>
<td>(voo zah-lay)</td>
<td>(eel vah)</td>
<td>(eel vohN)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Add an infinitive to get the near future: *Je vais aller à Paris.* (I’m going to go to Paris.) *Nous allons prendre l’avion.* (We’re going to take the plane.)

The Future Tense of Regular Verbs
The future tense tells what the subject will do or what action will take place in a future time. The future tense of all regular verbs is formed by adding the endings indicated in bold to the infinitive of the verb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-ER VERBS</th>
<th>-IR VERBS</th>
<th>-RE VERBS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>parler</td>
<td>finir</td>
<td>rendre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to speak)</td>
<td>(to finish)</td>
<td>(to return)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>je parlerai</td>
<td>je finirai</td>
<td>je rendrai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu parleras</td>
<td>tu finiras</td>
<td>tu rendras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il parlera</td>
<td>elle finira</td>
<td>on rendra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous parlerons</td>
<td>nous finirons</td>
<td>nous rendrons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vous parlez</td>
<td>vous finirez</td>
<td>vous rendez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ils parleront</td>
<td>ils finiront</td>
<td>elles rendront</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTE

If you look carefully at the future endings, you should notice that, except for the *nous* and *vous* forms (where the *av* beginning is dropped), you are looking at the conjugation of the verb *avoir*.

It is important that you note the following idiosyncrasies about the formation of the future of regular verbs:

- *-re* verbs drop the final *e* before adding the appropriate future ending: *répondre, il répondra; vendre, nous vendrons*
- The *e* of the *-er* infinitive remains silent in the future tense:
  
  *Il travaillera.*
  
  *Nous en parlerons.*

The Future Tense of Shoe Verbs

Only two categories of shoe verbs use the changes that were made within the shoe for regular verbs to form all forms of the future tense. All other shoe verbs follow the rules for future formation listed earlier in this section. (For more information on shoe verbs, see Chapter 22:00.)

**-yer Verbs.** Because verbs ending in *-yer* change *y* to *i* in all forms of the future, there is no longer a need for the shoe:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Future Tense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>j'emploïerai</td>
<td>nous emploïurons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu emploïeras</td>
<td>vous emploïerez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il emploïera</td>
<td>elles emploïeront</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**-ayer Verbs.** With verbs ending in *-ayer*, you have the option of changing *y* to *i* in all future forms: *je païerai (payerai), nous païerons (payerons)*. It is probably easier, however, to remember the *y* to *i* change for all *-yer* verbs, including those ending in *-ayer*.

**e + Consonant + er Verbs.** Because verbs ending in *e + consonant + er* (but not *é + consonant + er*) change the silent *e* in the syllable before the infinitive ending to *è* in all forms of the future, there is no longer a need for a shoe.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Future Tense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>j'achëterai</td>
<td>nous achëterons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu achëteras</td>
<td>vous achëterez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il achëtera</td>
<td>elles achëteront</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Verbs with silent e (those verbs ending in -eler and -eter) like appeler and jeter double the consonant in the future:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>appeler, to call</th>
<th>jeter, to throw</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>j’appellerai nous appellerons je jetterai nous jeterons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu appelleras vous appelleriez tu jettteras vous jettterez</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il appellerà ils appelleront elle jettterà ils jettteront</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Future Tense of Irregular Verbs

The verbs below have irregular future stems, which always end in -r or -rr. Just add the future endings to these stems to get the correct future form:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFINITIVE</th>
<th>STEM</th>
<th>INFINITIVE</th>
<th>STEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aller (to go)</td>
<td>ir-</td>
<td>pouvoir (to be able to)</td>
<td>pourr-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>avoir (to have)</td>
<td>aur-</td>
<td>recevoir (to receive)</td>
<td>recevr-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>devoir (to have to)</td>
<td>devr-</td>
<td>savoir (to know)</td>
<td>saur-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>envoyer (to send)</td>
<td>enverr-</td>
<td>venir (to come)</td>
<td>viendr-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>être (to be)</td>
<td>ser-</td>
<td>voir (to see)</td>
<td>verr-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>faire (to make, do)</td>
<td>fer-</td>
<td>vouloir (to wish, want)</td>
<td>voudr-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Uses of the Future

- The future tense, as in English, is used to express what will happen: Il partira demain. (He will leave tomorrow.) Nous irons en France. (We will go to France.)
- The future is used after quand (when), lorsque (when), dès que (as soon as), and aussitôt que (as soon as), if the action refers to the future, even though the present tense may be used in English. Because the action will be completed at some later time, the French construction seems to be more logical:

  - Quand j’aurai beaucoup d’argent, je m’achèterai une villa. When I have a lot of money, I’ll buy myself a villa.
  - Elles travailleront lorsqu’elles habiteront à Montréal. They will work when they live in Montreal.
  - Dès que nous arriverons à la maison, nous te téléphonerons. As soon as we arrive home, we will call you.
  - Il regardera la télévision aussitôt qu’il arrivera. He will watch television as soon as he arrives.
THE FUTURE PERFECT
You use the future perfect (le futur antérieur) to describe an action or event that will have been completed in the past. Because you are expressing what will have happened, you will need the future of the helping verb + the past participle of the verb that shows the action or event to have been completed. The futur antérieur is formed, then, as follows: future of helping verb (avoir or être) + past participle.

Il aura fini le travail avant la fin de la journée. He will have finished the work before the end of the day.

The futur antérieur is used:
• After quand, lorsque, dès que, and aussitôt que in many situations:
  Nous partirons dès qu’ils auront mangé. We will leave as soon as they (will) have eaten.
  Je travaillerai lorsque j’aurai fini mes études. I will work when I (will) have finished my studies.

• To express probability or supposition in the past:
  Il n’a pas téléphoné. Il aura perdu mon numéro de téléphone. He didn’t call. He must have lost my phone number.
  Il sera arrivé quelque chose. Something must have happened.

THE CONDITIONAL
The conditional is not a tense, because it does not indicate a time period. It is, instead, a mood that expresses what the speaker would do or what would happen under certain circumstances or conditions.

The Conditional of Regular Verbs
You form the conditional with the same stem that you used to form the future, whether you are using a regular, a shoe, or an irregular verb. Add the endings (the same endings used to form the imperfect) indicated in bold in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-ER VERBS</th>
<th>-IR VERBS</th>
<th>-RE VERBS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>parler</td>
<td>finir</td>
<td>rendre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>je parler</td>
<td>je finir</td>
<td>je rendre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu parler</td>
<td>tu finir</td>
<td>tu rendre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il parler</td>
<td>elle finir</td>
<td>on rendrait</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BACK TO THE FUTURE: SPEAKING CONDITIONALLY
The stems for the conditional are exactly the same as the stems for the future. The endings for the conditional are exactly the same as those for the imperfect. Learn those two tenses and you will have all you need to form the conditional.

The Conditional of Irregular Verbs
Since the future and the conditional of verbs use the same stem, regular, shoe verbs, and irregular verbs can be distinguished in the conditional by their endings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFINITIVE (TO)</th>
<th>FUTURE (WILL)</th>
<th>CONDITIONAL (WOULD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>employer (use)</td>
<td>j'emploierai</td>
<td>j'emploierais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acheter (buy)</td>
<td>tu achèteras</td>
<td>tu achèterais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appeler (call)</td>
<td>il appellerai</td>
<td>il appellerait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jeter (throw)</td>
<td>elle jetterai</td>
<td>elle jetterait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aller (go)</td>
<td>on ira</td>
<td>on irait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>avoir (have)</td>
<td>nous aurons</td>
<td>nous aurions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>devoir (have to)</td>
<td>vous devrez</td>
<td>vous devriez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>envoyer (send)</td>
<td>ils enverront</td>
<td>ils enverraient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>être (be)</td>
<td>elles seront</td>
<td>elles seraient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>faire (make, do)</td>
<td>elles feront</td>
<td>elles feraient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pouvoir (be able to)</td>
<td>je pourrai</td>
<td>je pourrais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recevoir (receive)</td>
<td>tu recevras</td>
<td>tu recevrais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>savoir (know)</td>
<td>il saura</td>
<td>il saurait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>venir (come)</td>
<td>elle viendra</td>
<td>elle viendrait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voir (see)</td>
<td>on verra</td>
<td>on verrait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vouloir (wish, want)</td>
<td>nous voudrons</td>
<td>nous voudrions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTE

1. The conditional of the verbs vouloir (to want) and aimer (to like, love) is frequently used to express what the speaker would like:

   Je voudrais aller en France.  I would like to go to France.
   J’almerais partir maintenant. I would like to leave now.

2. The irregularities in the future and conditional of the verbs listed on page 66 also occur in related verbs:

   appeler:  vous appellerez  vous reppellerez
   envoyer:  il enverrait  il renverrait

Uses of the Conditional

The conditional is used as follows:

• To express what would happen under certain conditions:

   Je voyagerais en Europe si j’avais assez d’argent.
   I would travel to Europe if I had enough money.

   When would has the sense of “used to” or “to be willing” (“to want”), the imperfect or the passé composé of vouloir is used:

   Je voyageais souvent en Europe. I would (used to) travel to Europe often.
   Je voulais voyager en Europe./ I wanted to travel to Europe.
   J’ai voulu voyager en Europe.

   When could has the sense of “should be able to,” the conditional of pouvoir is used: Tu pourrais faire ce travail. (You could [should be able to] do this work.)

   When could means “was able to,” the imperfect or passé composé of pouvoir is used:

   Il pouvait faire ce travail./ He could (was able to)
   Il a pu faire ce travail. do this work.

• To make a request or a demand more polite: Je voudrais vous parler. (I would like to speak to you.)

THE PAST CONDITIONAL

The past conditional (le conditionnel passé) is used to describe an action or event that would have taken place in the past had something else happened.
Because you are expressing what *would have happened*, you will need the conditional of the helping verb + the past participle of the verb that shows the action or event that would have been completed. The past conditional is formed, then, as follows: conditional of helping verb (*avoir* or *être*) + past participle.

Avec un peu plus de temps, j’aurais fini le travail. With a little more time, I would have finished the work.

**CONDITIONAL SENTENCES**

Conditional sentences consist of two clauses: a condition (subordinate clause) or *si* clause and a result (main) clause. There are two types of conditional sentences: those expressing real conditions and those expressing contrary-to-fact conditions.

**Real Conditions**

A real condition describes what is possible or likely. Real conditions are expressed in French by using the present tense in the *si* clause and the present, future, or imperative (command form) in the result clause:

If you want to learn, you have to study.

Si vous voulez apprendre, vous devez étudier.

If you use this book, you will learn French.

Si vous utilisez ce livre, vous apprendrez le français.

If you have a problem, call me.

Si vous avez un problème, téléphonez-moi.

**Contrary-to-Fact Conditions**

A conditional sentence that describes an unlikely situation is called “unreal” or “contrary-to-fact.” French uses the imperfect in the *si* clause and the conditional in the result clause to express a contrary-to-fact condition:

If it were nice weather, we would go out.

S’il faisait beau, nous sortirions.

He would buy his wife a car if he won the lottery.

Il achèterait une voiture à sa femme s’il gagnait le gros lot.

A contrary-to-fact conditional sentence may also contain the *plus-que-parfait* (pluperfect) in the *si* clause and the *conditionnel passé* in the result clause:

If it had been nice weather, we would have gone out.

S’il avait fait beau, nous serions sortis.
Il aurait acheté une voiture He would have bought his
à sa femme s’il avait gagné wife a car if he had won
le gros lot. the lottery.

When forming conditional sentences, keep the following in mind:

• *Si* elides with *il* and *ils* to become *s’il* and *s’ils*, respectively. There is
  no elision with *si* and *elle*:

  Je te téléphonerai s’il arrive I will call you if he arrives
  avant midi. before noon.

  Je te téléphonerai si elle arrive I will call you if she arrives
  avant midi. before noon.

• The *si* clause may occur at the beginning or in the middle of the
  sentence:

  Je le ferai s’ils m’aident. I will do it if they help me.

  Si elle était en vacances, If she were on vacation,
  elle voyagerait. she would travel.

This table summarizes the tenses that may be used after *si* when *si* means
“if”:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SI (SUBORDINATE) CLAUSE</th>
<th>RESULT (MAIN) CLAUSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Command (Imperative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperfect</td>
<td>Conditional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pluperfect</td>
<td>Past Conditional</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In conditional sentences, *si* always means “if.” When *si* means “whether,” it
may be followed by any tense, just as in English:

Je ne sais pas s’il viendra. I don’t know whether he will come.

Sais-tu si elle l’a fini? Do you know whether she finished it?
TIME’S UP!

Choose the verb form that correctly completes these conditional sentences, which discuss the choices of different people.

1. S'il ______ ses examens, il deviendrait docteur.
   a. réussissait  b. réussira  c. réussirait  d. réussit

2. Je/J' ______ contente si je rencontrais l'homme de mes rêves (dreams).
   a. étais  b. suis  c. serais  d. serai

3. Si elle avait gagné beaucoup d'argent, elle ______ en France.
   a. était allée  b. serait allée  c. va  d. sera allée

4. Ils grossiraient s'ils ______ trop.
   a. mangeaient  b. ont mangé  c. mangeraient  d. mangeront

5. Si nous voulions guérir les malades, nous ______ docteurs.
   a. devenons  b. devenions  c. deviendrions  d. étions devenus

6. Elles auraient pu voir le film si elles ______ à l'heure.
   a. seraient arrivées  b. arrivent  c. étaient arrivées  d. arriveront

7. Si vous ______ attention, vous apprendrez beaucoup.
   a. ferez  b. faites  c. faisiez  d. feriez

8. Tu ______ l'avion si tu avais l'argent nécessaire.
   a. aurais pris  b. prenais  c. prendrais  d. avait pris

   a. allait  b. serait allé  c. a allé  d. irait

10. J' ______ le français si je travaille beaucoup.
    a. apprendrai  b. apprends  c. aurai appris  d. avais appris
Using Adjectives and Adverbs

MASTER THESE SKILLS

• Making adjectives feminine
• Forming irregular adjectives
• Making adjectives plural
• Positioning adjectives properly
• Forming and using adverbs properly

In this lesson you’ll learn how to form adjectives, how to make them agree with the nouns they describe, and where to position them with respect to the noun.
## Making Adjectives Feminine

All French adjectives agree in gender (masculine or feminine) and number (singular or plural) with the nouns they describe. Most French adjectives form the feminine singular by adding *e* to the masculine form, as shown in the center column of the following table. This table, and the ones that follow, will give you a good working adjective vocabulary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>américain</td>
<td>américaine</td>
<td>American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ah-may-ree-kaN)</td>
<td>(ah-may-ree-kehn)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amusant (ah-mew-zahN)</td>
<td>amusante (ah-mew-zahNt)</td>
<td>amusing, fun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bleu (bluh)</td>
<td>bleue (bluh)</td>
<td>blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blond (blohN)</td>
<td>blonde (blohNd)</td>
<td>blond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brun (bruhN)</td>
<td>brune (brewn)</td>
<td>brunette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>charmant (shahr-mahN)</td>
<td>charmante (shahr-mahNt)</td>
<td>charming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>content (kohN-tahN)</td>
<td>conte (kohN-tahNt)</td>
<td>glad, happy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>court (koor)</td>
<td>courte (koort)</td>
<td>short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>élégant (ay-lay-gahN)</td>
<td>élégante (ay-lay-gahNt)</td>
<td>elegant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fort (fohr)</td>
<td>forte (fohrt)</td>
<td>strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>français (frahN-seh)</td>
<td>française (frahN-sehz)</td>
<td>French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grand (grahN)</td>
<td>grande (grahNd)</td>
<td>big, tall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>haut (o)</td>
<td>haute (ot)</td>
<td>tall, big</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intelligent</td>
<td>intelligente</td>
<td>intelligent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(aN-teh-lee-zahN)</td>
<td>(aN-teh-lee-zahNt)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intéressant</td>
<td>intéressante</td>
<td>interesting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(aN-tay-reh-sahN)</td>
<td>(aN-tay-reh-sahNt)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>joli (zhoh-lee)</td>
<td>jolie (zhoh-lee)</td>
<td>pretty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lourd (loor)</td>
<td>lourde (loorD)</td>
<td>heavy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ouvert (oo-vehr)</td>
<td>ouverte (oo-vehrt)</td>
<td>open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parfait (pahr-feh)</td>
<td>parfaite (pahr-feht)</td>
<td>perfect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>petit (puh-tee)</td>
<td>petite (puh-teet)</td>
<td>small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poli (poh-lee)</td>
<td>polie (poh-lee)</td>
<td>polite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prochain (proh-shaN)</td>
<td>prochaine (proh-shehn)</td>
<td>next</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vrai (vreh)</td>
<td>vraie (vreh)</td>
<td>true</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A pronunciation change occurs when an e is added after a consonant. That consonant, which was silent in the masculine, is now pronounced in the feminine form. When the e is added after a vowel, there is no change in pronunciation.

Adjectives Ending in -é
Singular adjectives ending in -é also form the feminine by adding e:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASCULINE</th>
<th>FEMININE</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>âgé</td>
<td>âgée</td>
<td>ah-zhay</td>
<td>old, aged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dévoué</td>
<td>dévouée</td>
<td>day-voo-ay</td>
<td>devoted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fatigué</td>
<td>fatiguée</td>
<td>fah-tee-gay</td>
<td>tired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>occupé</td>
<td>occupée</td>
<td>oh-kew-pay</td>
<td>busy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>situé</td>
<td>située</td>
<td>see-tew-ay</td>
<td>situated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adjectives Ending in Silent -e
Singular adjectives ending in silent -e do not change in the feminine. Both masculine and feminine forms are spelled and pronounced exactly the same way:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASCULINE AND FEMININE</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aimable</td>
<td>eh-mahbl</td>
<td>kind, pleasant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>célèbre</td>
<td>say-lehbr</td>
<td>famous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>célibataire</td>
<td>say-lee-bah-tehr</td>
<td>single</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>confortable</td>
<td>kohN-fohr-tahbl</td>
<td>comfortable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drôle</td>
<td>drohl</td>
<td>funny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>facile</td>
<td>fah-seel</td>
<td>easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>faible</td>
<td>fehbl</td>
<td>weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>formidable</td>
<td>fohr-mee-dahbl</td>
<td>great</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>honnête</td>
<td>oh-neht</td>
<td>honest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maigre</td>
<td>mehgr</td>
<td>thin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>malade</td>
<td>mah-lahd</td>
<td>sick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mince</td>
<td>maNs</td>
<td>thin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moderne</td>
<td>moh-dehrn</td>
<td>modern</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PAST PARTICIPLES USED AS ADJECTIVES
When a past participle is used as an adjective, it agrees with the noun it describes: *La porte est fermée.* (The door is closed.) *Les livres sont ouverts.* (The books are open.)

FORMING IRREGULAR ADJECTIVES
If a masculine singular adjective ends in -x, the feminine is formed by changing -x to -se, which gives the feminine ending a z sound, as shown below. You will not need the meanings for most of them because they are cognates, with these exceptions: *chanceux*—lucky, *heureux*—happy, *malheureux*—unhappy, *paresseux*—lazy, *peureux*—fearful.

Adjectives Ending in -eux and -euse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASCULINE</th>
<th>FEMININE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>affectueux (ah-fehk-tew-uuh)</td>
<td>affectueuse (ah-fehk-tew-uhz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ambitieux (ahN-bee-syuh)</td>
<td>ambitieuse (ahN-bee-syuhz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chanceux (shahN-suh)</td>
<td>chanceuse (shahN-suhz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>consciencieux (kohN-syahN-syuh)</td>
<td>consciencieuse (kohN-syahN-syuhz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>courageux (koo-rah-zuhuh)</td>
<td>courageuse (koo-rah-zuhuhz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>curieux (kew-ryuh)</td>
<td>curieuse (kew-ryuhz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dangereux (dahNzh-ruh)</td>
<td>dangereuse (dahNzh-ruhz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>délicieux (day-lee-syuh)</td>
<td>délicieuse (day-lee-syuhz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>furieux (few-ryuh)</td>
<td>furieuse (few-ryuhz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>généreux (zhay-nay-ruh)</td>
<td>généreuse (zhay-nay-ruhz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heureux (uh-ruh)</td>
<td>heureuse (uh-ruhz)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adjectives Ending in -f
Masculine singular adjectives ending in -f form the feminine singular by changing -f to -ve and changing the pronunciation accordingly, as illustrated below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASCULINE</th>
<th>FEMININE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>actif (ahk-teef)</td>
<td>active (ahk-teev)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>attentif (ah-tahN-teef)</td>
<td>attentive (ah-tahN-teev)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imaginatif (ee-mah-zhee-nah-teef)</td>
<td>imaginative (ee-mah-zhee-nah-teev)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>impulsif (ahN-pewl-seeef)</td>
<td>impulsive (ahN-pewl-seeev)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intuitif (ahN-tew-ee-teef)</td>
<td>intuitive (ahN-tew-ee-teev)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>naïf (nah-eef)</td>
<td>naïve (nah-eev)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neuf (nuf)</td>
<td>neuve (nuhv)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sportif (spohr-teef)</td>
<td>sportive (spohr-teev)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vif (veef)</td>
<td>vive (veev)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adjectives Ending in -er
Masculine singular adjectives ending in -er form the feminine by changing -er to -ère:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASCULINE</th>
<th>FEMININE</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cher (shehr)</td>
<td>chère (shehr)</td>
<td>dear, expensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dernier (dehr-ryay)</td>
<td>dernière (dehr-ryehr)</td>
<td>last</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>entier (ahN-tyay)</td>
<td>entière (ahN-tyehr)</td>
<td>entire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>étranger (ay-trahN-zhay)</td>
<td>étrangère (ay-trahN-zhehr)</td>
<td>foreign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fier (fyehr)</td>
<td>fière (fyehr)</td>
<td>proud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>léger (lay-zhay)</td>
<td>légère (lay-zhehr)</td>
<td>light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>premier (pruh-myay)</td>
<td>première (pruh-myehr)</td>
<td>first</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here are some masculine singular adjectives that form the feminine by doubling the final consonant before adding e:
### MASCULINE | FEMININE | MEANING
--- | --- | ---
ancien (ahN-syaN) | ancienne (ahN-syehn) | ancient, old
bas (bah) | basse (bahs) | low
bon (bohN) | bonne (bohn) | good
cruel (krew-ehl) | cruelle (krew-ehl) | cruel
européen (ew-roh-pay-aN) | européenne (ew-roh-pay-ehn) | European
gentil (zhahN-tee-y) | gentille (zhahN-tee-y) | nice, kind
gros (gro) | grosse (gros) | fat, big
mignon (mee-nyohN) | mignonne (mee-noyhn) | cute
sot (so) | sotte (soht) | foolish

---

**NOTE**

In these tables, notice how the pronunciation of feminine adjectives changes only if the masculine singular form ends in a vowel sound or nasal sound. Although some words end in a consonant, the final consonant may be silent. Generally, the only final consonants that are pronounced are *c*, *r*, *f*, and *l* (remember the word *careful*). When there is a final consonant sound, the masculine and feminine singular adjectives sound the same.

The adjectives in the following table have irregular feminine forms that must be memorized.

| MASCULINE | FEMININE | MEANING |
--- | --- | ---
*beau (bo) | belle (behl) | beautiful
blanc (blahN) | blanche (blahNsh) | white
complet (kohN-pleh) | complète (kohN-pleht) | complete
doux (doo) | douce (doos) | sweet, gentle
faux (fo) | fausse (fos) | false
favori (fah-voh-ree) | favorite (fah-voh-reet) | favorite
*fou (foo) | folle (fohl) | crazy
frais (freh) | fraîche (frehsh) | fresh
inquiet (aN-kee-yeh) | inquiète (aN-kee-yeht) | worried
long (lohN) | longue (lohNg) | long
SPECIAL FORMS

Five adjectives in French have special forms when used before masculine nouns beginning with a vowel or vowel sound. These adjectives are indicated by an asterisk (*) in the table above. The special forms are bel, fol, mol, nouvel, and vieil. This change prevents a clash between two pronounced vowel sounds and allows the language to flow:

un bel homme (a good-looking man)       un nouvel appartement (a new apartment)
un fol espoir (a crazy hope)             un vieil arbre (an old tree)
un mol oreiller (a soft pillow)          

If the adjective comes after the noun, then the regular masculine form is used:

L'homme est beau.                  The man is good-looking.
L'espoir est fou.                  Hoping is crazy.
L'oreiller est mou.               The pillow is soft.
L'appartement est nouveau.        The apartment is new.
L'arbre est vieux.                The tree is old.

MAKING ADJECTIVES PLURAL

The plural of most adjectives is formed by adding s to the singular of the masculine or feminine adjective (feminine form shown in parentheses):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>âgé(e)</td>
<td>âgé(e)s</td>
<td>fort(e)</td>
<td>fort(e)s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bon(ne)</td>
<td>bon(ne)s</td>
<td>long(ue)</td>
<td>long(ue)s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cher (chère)</td>
<td>cher (chère)s</td>
<td>sincére</td>
<td>sincéres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Don’t add the *s* if a masculine singular adjective ends in *-s* or *-x*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bas</td>
<td>bas</td>
<td>heureux</td>
<td>heureux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>frais</td>
<td>frais</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most masculine adjectives ending in *-al* change *-al* to *-aux* in the plural:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASCULINE SINGULAR</th>
<th>MASCULINE PLURAL</th>
<th>MASCULINE SINGULAR</th>
<th>MASCULINE PLURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>spécial</td>
<td>spéciaux</td>
<td>national</td>
<td>nationaux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>social</td>
<td>sociaux</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both masculine forms of *beau (bel)*, *fou (fol)*, *mou (mol)*, and *nouveau (nouvel)* have the same plural forms: they add an *-x* (*vieux* is the exception because it already ends in *-x*). The addition of an *-x* when the plural is formed eliminates the potential problem of having two conflicting vowel sounds, one at the end of the adjective and the other at the beginning of the noun that follows: *un beau film, de beaux films; un bel appartement, de beaux appartements.*

---

**NOTE**

The plural *des* (some, any) becomes *de* before an adjective that precedes the noun: *As-tu des conseils?* (Do you have any advice?) *As-tu de bons conseils?* (Do you have any good advice?)

---

**POSITION OF ADJECTIVES**

The position of adjectives in French follows different rules from those with which you may be accustomed in English:

- Unlike English, most descriptive adjectives in French follow the noun they modify: *une cérémonie publique* (a public ceremony).
- Some short descriptive nouns, usually expressing beauty, age, goodness, and size (known as the BAGS adjectives), generally precede the nouns they modify:
  
  Beauty: *beau, joli*
  
  Age: *nouveau, vieux, jeune* (young)
  
  Goodness (or lack of it): *bon, gentil, mauvais* (bad), *vilain* (nasty, ugly)
  
  Size: *grand, petit, court* (short), *long, gros* (fat, thick), *large* (wide)
Elle porte une jolie robe. She’s wearing a pretty dress.
C’est un bon livre. It’s a good book.

Other common adjectives that precede the noun are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>autre</td>
<td>otr</td>
<td>other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chaque</td>
<td>shahk</td>
<td>each, every</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dernier</td>
<td>dehr-nyay</td>
<td>last</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plusieurs</td>
<td>plew-zyuhr</td>
<td>several</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quelques</td>
<td>kehl-kuh</td>
<td>a few</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tel</td>
<td>tehl</td>
<td>such</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tout</td>
<td>too</td>
<td>all, whole, every</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

un autre homme another man
plusieurs amis several friends
une telle histoire such a story

Tout precedes both the noun and the definite article (le, la, l’, les):
toute la famille (the whole family), tous les garçons (all the boys)

NOTE

The adjective tout (all) is irregular in the masculine plural:

Singular: tout  Plural: tous

When more than one adjective is used in a description, put each adjective in its proper place according to the rules in the preceding bullets. Two adjectives in the same position are joined by et (and): une petite maison bleue (a small, blue house), un garçon fort et athlétique (a strong, athletic boy), une jeune et gentille fille (a kind, young girl).

An adjective describing two or more nouns of different genders is masculine plural: Le garçon et la fille sont intelligents. (The boy and the girl are intelligent.)

ADJECTIVES WITH DIFFERENT MEANINGS

Some adjectives have different meanings, depending on whether they are positioned before or after the noun they modify. Adjectives before the
noun tend to have a more literal meaning. When they follow the noun, the meaning changes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French Expression</th>
<th>English Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>une coutume ancienne</td>
<td>an old (ancient) custom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>une ancienne coutume</td>
<td>a former custom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>une femme brave</td>
<td>a brave woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>une brave femme</td>
<td>a good woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>une voiture chère</td>
<td>an expensive car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>un cher ami</td>
<td>a dear friend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la semaine dernière</td>
<td>last week (just passed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la dernière semaine</td>
<td>the last week (of a series)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>un garçon honnête</td>
<td>an honest boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>un honnête garçon</td>
<td>a virtuous boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>une fille méchante</td>
<td>a nasty (wicked) girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>une méchante fille</td>
<td>a bad (naughty) girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la chose même</td>
<td>the very thing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la même chose</td>
<td>the same thing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>les gens pauvres</td>
<td>the poor people (without money)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>les pauvres gens</td>
<td>the unfortunate people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mon sac propre</td>
<td>my clean handbag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mon propre sac</td>
<td>my own handbag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>un chien sale</td>
<td>a dirty dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>un sale chien</td>
<td>a nasty dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>une femme seule</td>
<td>a woman alone (by herself)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>une seule femme</td>
<td>one woman only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>une figure triste</td>
<td>a sad (unhappy) face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>une triste figure</td>
<td>a long face (appearance)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ADVERBS
An adverb often describes how well the subject performs an action. In English, many adverbs end in -ly. The French equivalent ending is -ment. Because adverbs modify verbs, you don’t need to worry about the agreement of adverbs.

Formation of Adverbs
Adverbs are formed by adding -ment (mahN) to the masculine singular form of an adjective ending with a vowel:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>masculine adjective</th>
<th>adverb</th>
<th>meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>poli</td>
<td>poliment (poh-lee-mahN)</td>
<td>politely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rapide</td>
<td>rapidement (rah-peed-mahN)</td>
<td>rapidly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sincère</td>
<td>sincèrement (saN-sehr-mahN)</td>
<td>sincerely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vrai</td>
<td>virement (vreh-mahN)</td>
<td>really, truly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the masculine singular adjective ends in a consonant, -ment is added to the feminine singular:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>adjective</th>
<th>feminine</th>
<th>adverb</th>
<th>meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>actif</td>
<td>active</td>
<td>activement (ahk-teev-mahN)</td>
<td>actively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cruel</td>
<td>cruelle</td>
<td>cruellement (krew-ehl-mahN)</td>
<td>cruelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>doux</td>
<td>douce</td>
<td>doucement (doos-mahN)</td>
<td>softly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>franc</td>
<td>franche</td>
<td>franchement (frahNsh-mahN)</td>
<td>frankly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heureux</td>
<td>heureuse</td>
<td>heureusement (uh-ruhz-mahN)</td>
<td>happily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>léger</td>
<td>légère</td>
<td>légèrement (lay-zhehr-mahN)</td>
<td>lightly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seul</td>
<td>seule</td>
<td>seulement (suhl-mahN)</td>
<td>only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Two irregular adverbs are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>adjective</th>
<th>feminine</th>
<th>adverb</th>
<th>meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bref</td>
<td>brève</td>
<td>brièvement (bree-ehv-mahN)</td>
<td>briefly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gentil</td>
<td>gentille</td>
<td>gentiment (zhahN-tee-mahN)</td>
<td>gently</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULES
The following groups of adjectives are exceptions to the rule:

A few adjectives change the feminine silent -e ending to é before adding -ment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEMININE ADJECTIVE</th>
<th>ADVERB</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aveugle</td>
<td>aveuglément</td>
<td>blindly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>énorme</td>
<td>énormément</td>
<td>enormously</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intense</td>
<td>intensément</td>
<td>intensely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>précise</td>
<td>précisément</td>
<td>precisely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>profonde</td>
<td>profondément</td>
<td>profoundly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adjectives ending in -ant and -ent have adverbs ending in -amment and -emment, respectively:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADJECTIVE</th>
<th>ADVERB</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>constant</td>
<td>constamment</td>
<td>constantly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>courant</td>
<td>couramment</td>
<td>fluently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>différent</td>
<td>différemment</td>
<td>differently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>évident</td>
<td>évidemment</td>
<td>evidently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>récent</td>
<td>récemment</td>
<td>recently</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adjectives have forms that are distinct from adjectives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADJECTIVE</th>
<th>ADVERB</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bon (bohn)</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>bien (byaN) well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mauvais (mo-veh)</td>
<td>bad</td>
<td>mal (mahl) badly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meilleur (meh-yuhr)</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>mieux (myuh) better</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
moindre (mwaNdr)  less  moins (mwaN)  less
petit (puh-tee)  little  peu (puh)  little

M. Dupont est un bon professeur qui enseigne bien le français.
Mr. Dupont is a good teacher who teaches French well.

**ADVERBS NOT FORMED FROM ADJECTIVES**
Some adverbs and adverbial expressions are not formed from adjectives and, therefore, do not end in *-ment*. The most common adverbs that follow this rule are listed below:

- alors (ah-lohrs)  then
- après (ah-preh)  afterward
- assez (ah-seh)  enough
- aujourd'hui (o-zhoord-wee)  today
- auparavant (o-pah-rah-vahN)  before
- aussi (o-see)  also, too
- beaucoup (bo-koo)  much
- bientôt (byaN-to)  soon
- cependant (suh-pahN-dahN)  meanwhile
- comme (kohm)  as
- d’habitude (dah-bee-tewd)  usually, generally
- davantage (dah-vahN-tahzh)  more
- de nouveau (duh noo-vo)  again
- dedans (duh-dahN)  inside
- dehors (duh-ohr)  outside
- déjà (day-zhah)  already
- demain (duh-maN)  tomorrow
- encore (ahN-kohr)  still, yet, again
- enfin (ahN-faN)  finally, at last
- en retard (ahN ruh-tahr)  late (in arriving)
- ensemble (ahN-sahNbl)  together
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French Word</th>
<th>English Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ensuite (ahN-sweet)</td>
<td>then, afterward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>environ (ahN-vee-rohN)</td>
<td>about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exprès (ehks-preh)</td>
<td>on purpose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hier (yehr)</td>
<td>yesterday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ici (ee-see)</td>
<td>here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jamais (zhah-meh)</td>
<td>never</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>là (lah)</td>
<td>there</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loin (lwaN)</td>
<td>far</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maintenant (maNt-nahN)</td>
<td>now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>même (mehm)</td>
<td>even</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parfois (pahr-fwah)</td>
<td>sometimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>partout (pahr-too)</td>
<td>everywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peut-être (puh-tehtr)</td>
<td>perhaps, maybe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plus (plew)</td>
<td>more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plutôt (plew-to)</td>
<td>rather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>près (preh)</td>
<td>near</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>presque (prehsk)</td>
<td>almost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>puis (pwee)</td>
<td>then</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quelquefois (kehl-kuh-fwah)</td>
<td>sometimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>si (see)</td>
<td>so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>souvent (soo-vahN)</td>
<td>often</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surtout (sewr-too)</td>
<td>especially</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tard (tahr)</td>
<td>late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tôt (to)</td>
<td>soon, early</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>toujours (too-zhoor)</td>
<td>always, still</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tout (too)</td>
<td>quite, entirely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tout à coup (too tah koo)</td>
<td>suddenly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tout à fait (too tah feh)</td>
<td>entirely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tout de suite (toot sweet)</td>
<td>immediately</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
très (treh) very
trop (tro) too much
vite (veet) quickly

ADVERBS OF QUANTITY
This list gives frequently used adverbs of quantity, which are always followed by the preposition de:
assez de (ah-say duh) enough of
autant de (o-tahN duh) as much, many
beaucoup de (bo-koo duh) much, many
combien de (kohN-byaN duh) how much, many
moins de (mwaN duh) less, fewer
peu de (puh duh) little, few
plus de (plew duh) more
tant de (tahN duh) so much, many
trop de (tro duh) too much, many

POSITION OF ADVERBS
In simple tenses (no helping verb), adverbs are generally placed directly after the verbs they modify. Sometimes, however, the position is variable and the adverb is placed where you would logically put an English adverb: Elle parle couramment. (She speaks fluently.) D’habitude il arrive à l’heure. (Usually he arrives on time.)

In compound tenses, adverbs generally follow the past participle. However, a few common ones, such as bien, mal, souvent, toujours, déjà, and encore, as well as adverbs of quantity, usually precede the past participle: Nous sommes venus immédiatement. (We came immediately.) J’avais beaucoup mangé. (I had eaten a lot.)
Rewrite each sentence by putting the correct form of the adjective shown in parentheses in its proper place. Be careful: sometimes you will simply need to make agreement of the adjective and sometimes you will have to change it to an adverb.

Example: (courant) Il parle. Il parle couramment.
       (petit) Anne est une fille. Anne est une petite fille.

1. (profond) Il pense.
2. (bon) Mme Dutour est une femme.
3. (loyal) Ce sont des hommes.
4. (récent) Ils sont arrivés.
5. (doux) Il parle.
6. (attentif) Le professeur préfère les étudiantes.
7. (beau) Je cherche un hôtel.
8. (bref) Elle chante.
9. (gentil) Voici des filles.
10. (parfait) Elles dansent.
Making Acquaintances

MASTER THESE SKILLS

- Using reflexive verbs to introduce yourself
- Choosing the correct reflexive verb
- Discussing your origins
- Using possessives to speak about family and friends

In this chapter you’ll learn how to carry on a basic, introductory conversation in French in which you can offer greetings, discuss your health, and speak about your origins and family members, using reflexive verbs properly as needed.
GREETINGS AND GOOD-BYES

When traveling in a foreign country, if you want to converse with a person whom you don’t know at all, a formal approach is de rigueur (mandatory). It is considered quite a faux pas (mistake) to address someone informally if a strong friendship or relationship has not been established. Be sure to start and end your conversations correctly by using the greetings and good-byes below.

As a sign of respect, older French women are generally referred to and addressed as madame, regardless of their marital status. When in doubt, use madame. Mademoiselle is reserved for younger women.

Formal Greetings and Good-Byes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>FRENCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hello.</td>
<td>Bonjour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good evening.</td>
<td>Bonsoir.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Monsieur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs.</td>
<td>Madame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss (Ms.)</td>
<td>Mademoiselle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s your name?</td>
<td>Comment vous appelez-vous?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My name is . . .</td>
<td>Je m’appelle . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m happy to meet you.</td>
<td>Je suis heureux(se) de faire votre connaissance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’d like you to meet . .</td>
<td>Je vous présente . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How are you?</td>
<td>Comment allez-vous?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very well.</td>
<td>Très bien.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not bad.</td>
<td>Pas mal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So-so.</td>
<td>Comme ci comme ça.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good-bye.</td>
<td>Au revoir.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good night.</td>
<td>Bonne nuit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Informal Greetings and Good-Byes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>FRENCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hi.</td>
<td>Salut.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What's your name?</td>
<td>Tu t'appelles comment?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My name is . . .</td>
<td>Je m'appelle . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleased to meet you.</td>
<td>Enchanté(e).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'd like you to meet . .</td>
<td>Je te présente . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bye.</td>
<td>Salut.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How are you?</td>
<td>Ça va?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine.</td>
<td>Ça va.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What's new?</td>
<td>Quoi de neuf?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing.</td>
<td>Rien.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See you soon.</td>
<td>À bientôt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See you later.</td>
<td>À tout à l'heure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See you tomorrow.</td>
<td>À demain.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE**

*Bonsoir* is used after sunset as a greeting. *Bonne nuit* is what you would say to someone who is about to retire for the night.

**REFLEXIVE VERBS**

A reflexive verb indicates that the action is performed by the subject upon itself. The reflexive verb has a reflexive pronoun as its object. Thus, the subject and the pronoun object refer to the same person or thing: *Je m'appelle Jean.* (I call myself John. [My name is John.]) A reflexive verb can be identified by the *se* that is placed before the infinitive.

In many instances you can use the same verb, without the reflexive pronoun, to perform the action upon or for someone else. The verb then is no longer reflexive.

- *Je m'appelle Marie.*  
  My name is Marie. (I call myself Marie.)
- *J'appelle Marie.*  
  I call Marie.

Some verbs that are generally not reflexive may be made reflexive by adding the reflexive pronoun: *Je regarde la télévision.* (I watch television.) *Je me regarde.* (I watch/look at myself.)
The verb *se sentir* (to feel) will prove useful when discussing your health. *Se sentir* does not follow the rules for the conjugation of regular *-ir* verbs and is considered irregular. Note the reflexive pronouns that are used with each subject, and their placement immediately before the conjugated verb. All reflexive verbs must be preceded by these pronouns, which are directly tied to their subjects. The table below shows how to conjugate the reflexive verb *se sentir*:

**se sentir**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>je</th>
<th>te</th>
<th>il, elle, on</th>
<th>nous</th>
<th>vous</th>
<th>ils, elles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
<td>vous</td>
<td>se</td>
<td>nous</td>
<td>vous</td>
<td>se</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sens</td>
<td>sens</td>
<td>sent</td>
<td>sent</td>
<td>sent</td>
<td>sentent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel</td>
<td>you feel</td>
<td>he, she, one feels</td>
<td>we feel</td>
<td>you feel</td>
<td>they feel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To answer the question, *Comment vous sentez-vous?/Comment te sens-tu?* or *Comment allez-vous?/Comment vas-tu?* (How are you?), you can respond with the following phrases:

- I feel well. *Je me sens bien.*
- I feel bad. *Je me sens mal.*
- I feel better. *Je me sens mieux.*
- I feel worse. *Je me sens pire.*

Some verbs are usually or always used reflexively. The table below provides a list of the most common reflexive verbs. Verbs with an asterisk (*) all have spelling changes in the present tense and must be conjugated accordingly. Refer back to Chapter 22:00 for the rules for these shoe verbs.

**Common Reflexive Verbs**

| s’arrêter de | to stop |
| s’attendre à | to expect |
| se baigner | to bathe, swim |
| se battre | to fight |
| se blesser | to hurt oneself |
Choosing the Correct Reflexive Verb

Some verbs in French have special meanings when used reflexively. So be careful to choose the verb you want to use:

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<td>to fight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
demander to ask  se demander to wonder
occuper to occupy  s’occuper de to take care of
passer to spend time, pass  se passer de to do without
servir to serve  se servir de to use
tromper to deceive  se tromper to make a mistake

Some reflexive verbs are used idiomatically in certain expressions, which means there is no logical grammatical explanation for the construction of these phrases.

**Idiomatic Reflexive Verbs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>se brosser les dents</td>
<td>to brush one’s teeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>se casser la jambe</td>
<td>to break one’s leg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s’en aller</td>
<td>to go away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>se faire des amis</td>
<td>to make friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>se mettre en colère</td>
<td>to get angry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>se rendre compte de</td>
<td>to realize</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table below shows the verbs that are always used reflexively in French, but not necessarily in English:

**French Verbs That Are Always Reflexive**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>s’efforcer de</td>
<td>to strive to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s’empresser de</td>
<td>to hasten to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s’en aller</td>
<td>to leave, go away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>se fier à</td>
<td>to trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>se méfier de</td>
<td>to distrust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>se moquer de</td>
<td>to make fun of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>se soucier de</td>
<td>to care about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>se souvenir de</td>
<td>to remember</td>
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</table>

Reflexive verbs in the plural may express reciprocal action corresponding to “each other” or “one another” in English: *Nous nous écrivons.* (We write to each other.)
Use l’un(e) l’autre (each other) or les un(e)s les autres (one another) to be specific:

Ils se regardent. They look at themselves (each other).
Ils se regardent l’un l’autre. They look at each other.
Ils se regardent les uns les autres. They look at one another.

**Reflexive Verbs in Compound Tenses**

In compound tenses, reflexive verbs use être as their helping verb. The reflexive pronoun remains before the conjugated form of être:

- Elle s’est lavée. She washed herself.
- Elle s’était lavée. She had washed herself.
- Elle se sera lavée. She will have washed herself.
- Elle se serait lavée. She would have washed herself.

When the reflexive pronoun represents a direct object (e.g., Whom did she wash? Herself.), the past participle agrees with the reflexive pronoun: Elle s’est lavée. (She washed herself.)

When the reflexive pronoun represents an indirect object (e.g., For whom did she wash something? For herself.), the past participle shows no agreement: Elle s’est lavé les mains. (She washed her hands.)

Note that the possessive adjective, in this case her, is expressed by the definite article les because the possessor is clear. The reflexive pronoun is the obvious indicator of possession.

**Reflexive Verbs with Infinitives**

When a subject is followed by two verbs, the reflexive pronoun goes before the verb (the infinitive) to which its meaning is linked: Je vais me sentir mieux. (I’m going to feel better.)

**ORIGINS**

It is only natural when you meet someone new to inquire about that person’s origins or to speak about your own. To formally ask a person where he or she is from, use: D’où êtes-vous? (Where are you from?). To be informal, ask: Tu es d’où? (Where are you from?)

In order to speak correctly about coming from, living in, or traveling to a country, city, state, or province, you should learn the following prepositions:
NOTE

1. Dans (to, in) and de (from) + definite article (le, la, l’, les) are used with modified geographical names: dans le Dakota du Sud (in/to South Dakota), de l’Europe du Nord (from Northern Europe).

2. Haïti and Israël do not use definite articles: en Haïti (to, in Haiti), d’Haïti (from Haiti); en Israël (to, in Israel), d’Israël (from Israel).

Names of countries and continents:

**Masculine Countries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>In French</th>
<th>In French</th>
<th>In French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>le Brésil</td>
<td></td>
<td>le Japon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>le Canada</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>le Mexique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>le Danemark</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>le Maroc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>Haïti</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>les Pays-Bas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>l’Iran</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>le Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>l’Irak</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>les États-Unis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Israël</td>
<td>Zaire</td>
<td>le Zaïre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Feminine Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>feminine</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>feminine</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>feminine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>l’Algérie</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>l’Inde</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>l’Autriche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>la Belgique</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>la Norvège</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>la Chine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>l’Égypte</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>la Russie</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>l’Angleterre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>la France</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>l’Espagne</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>l’Allemagne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>la Grèce</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>la Suisse</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>la Hongrie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Continents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>feminine</th>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>feminine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>l’Afrique</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>l’Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antarctica</td>
<td>l’Antarctique</td>
<td>North America</td>
<td>l’Amérique du Nord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>l’Asie</td>
<td>South America</td>
<td>l’Amérique du Sud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>l’Australie</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**NOTE**

Generally, geographical names are feminine if they end in -e, with the exception of le Cambodge, le Mexique, le Zaïre, and l’Antarctique.

Now you can answer these questions:

- **D’où êtes-vous?** (Where are you from?)

- **Tu vas où?** (Where are you going?)

- **Tu habites où?** (Where do you live?)
  - J’habite à Paris.

### NATIONALITIES

*Quelle est votre nationalité?* (What’s your nationality?) To answer this question, you need to know how to use adjectives of nationality.
Many nationalities have similar endings. The table below gives these endings and the common nationalities with each:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-AIS(E)</th>
<th>-EN(NE)</th>
<th>-AIN(E)</th>
<th>-OIS(E)</th>
<th>-E</th>
<th>-C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>anglais</td>
<td>autrichien</td>
<td>marocain</td>
<td>chinois</td>
<td>belge</td>
<td>turc, f. turque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>écossais</td>
<td>brésilien</td>
<td>mexicain</td>
<td>suédois</td>
<td>russe</td>
<td>grec, f. grecque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>français</td>
<td>canadien</td>
<td>roumain</td>
<td>hongrois</td>
<td>suisse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>irlandais</td>
<td>égyptien</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>japonais</td>
<td>haïtien</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>polonais</td>
<td>indien</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>portugais</td>
<td>italien</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>norvégien</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adjectives of nationality are not capitalized as they are in English, unless they refer to a specific person: *Elle est française.* (She is French.) *La Française parle.* (The Frenchwoman is speaking.)

**THE FAMILY**

When speaking in a foreign language, after you’ve introduced yourself, it often becomes necessary to introduce or refer to members of your family. The table below gives you the names of all the members you need to know:

**Males**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>boyfriend</th>
<th>petit ami</th>
<th>grandfather</th>
<th>grand-père</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>brother</td>
<td>frère</td>
<td>husband</td>
<td>mari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brother-in-law</td>
<td>beau-frère</td>
<td>nephew</td>
<td>neveu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>child</td>
<td>enfant</td>
<td>son</td>
<td>fils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cousin</td>
<td>cousin</td>
<td>son-in-law</td>
<td>gendre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>father</td>
<td>père</td>
<td>uncle</td>
<td>oncle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>father-in-law, stepfather</td>
<td>beau-père</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Females**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>aunt</th>
<th>tante</th>
<th>cousin</th>
<th>cousine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>child</td>
<td>enfant</td>
<td>daughter</td>
<td>fille</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SHOWING POSSESSION

In order to speak about those you hold near and dear, it is necessary to show possession, that is, to express that a person is somehow connected to you. When introducing or referring to members of your family, use the preposition *de* (of) or the possessive adjectives.

**Using De**

English speakers use '-s or -s' after a noun to show possession: for example, Marie’s father. Because French has no '-s to show possession, a reverse construction is used: *le père de Marie* (the father of Marie). The preposition *de* (of) is used to express relationship and possession. *De* is repeated before each noun and becomes *d’* before a vowel. *C’est le père de Marie et d’Henri.* (He’s Marie’s and Henry’s father.)

If the possessor is referred to by a common name such as “the boy” (He’s the boy’s father.) or “the girls” (She’s the girls’ mother.), then *de* contracts with the definite article *le* and *les* to express “of the”: *de + le = du; de + les = des.*

*C’est le père du garçon.* He’s the boy’s father.

*C’est la mère des filles.* She the girls’ mother.

Some other French expressions of relationship that use *de* are:

- a friend of mine, one of my friends *un(e) de mes ami(e)s*
- a nephew of his, one of his nephews *un de ses neveux*
- a neighbor (f.) of theirs, one of their neighbors *une de leurs voisin(e)s*

**Using Possessive Adjectives**

Possessive adjectives, like other French adjectives, agree with the nouns they modify (the person or thing that is possessed) and not with the subject (the person possessing them) and, therefore, serve as noun markers. The following summarizes the use of possessive adjectives:
The possessive adjectives used before masculine singular nouns or feminine singular nouns beginning with a vowel are: mon (my), ton (your familiar), son (his, her), notre (our), votre (your polite), and leur (their).

The possessive adjectives used before feminine singular nouns beginning with a consonant are: ma (my), ta (your familiar), sa (his, her), notre (our), votre (your polite), and leur (their).

The possessive adjectives used before all plural nouns are: mes (my), tes (your familiar), ses (his, her), nos (our), vos (your polite), and leurs (their).

When you use a possessive adjective, make note of the following:

- Son and sa both mean “his” or “her” because the possessive adjective agrees with the noun it modifies, and not with the subject. Therefore, “his mother” = sa mère because sa agrees with the word mother, which is feminine. Sa mère can also mean “her mother.” Likewise, “her father” = son père because son agrees with the word père, which is masculine. Son père can also mean “his father.”
- Possessive adjectives are used before each noun: sa soeur et son frère (her sister and brother), mon frère et leurs cousins (my brother and their cousins).
- The forms mon, ton, and son are used instead of ma, ta, and sa before a feminine singular noun beginning with a vowel or vowel sound: mon amie (my friend).
- With parts of the body, the possessive adjective is usually replaced with the definite article if the possessor is clear: Elle se brosse les dents. (She brushes her teeth.) Il lève la main. (He raises his hand.)

You may now introduce someone using possessive adjectives: Je vous (te) présente mon fils et sa femme. (I’d like you to meet my son and his wife.)

### Possessive Pronouns

A possessive pronoun replaces a possessive adjective + noun: Voici ma valise. Où est la vôtre? (Here is my suitcase. Where is yours?) The pronouns below agree in number and gender with the nouns they replace:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Masculine</td>
<td>Feminine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mine</td>
<td>le mien</td>
<td>la mienne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yours</td>
<td>le tien</td>
<td>la tienne</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Because the possessive pronoun agrees with the item possessed and not the possessor, the only way to distinguish between his and hers is to follow the conversation carefully.

**Using Être À**

The idiom être à is usually used to show possession of a thing. Conjugate être so that it agrees with the subject pronoun. The preposition à contracts with the definite article le and les before a noun: à + le = au; à + les = aux.

- Ce livre est à Jean. This is John's book.
- Ce livre est au garçon. This is the boy's book.
- Ce livre est aux garçons. This is the boys' book.
TIME’S UP!

By using the phrases presented at the beginning of this chapter and by using the correct possessive adjective, followed by the noun expressing the person whom you would like to introduce, you can have a very simple introductory conversation in French. Do the following without looking back:

1. Greet someone.
2. State that you are pleased to meet the person.
3. Give your name.
4. State your health.
5. Tell where you are from.
7. Give your nationality.
8. Name a country you are going to.
9. Introduce a family member.
10. Say good-bye.
Inviting and Replying with Verbs and Prepositions

**MASTER THESE SKILLS**

- Using verbs to extend invitations
- Using prepositions to join your thoughts
- Using stress pronouns to extend invitations
- Accepting, refusing, and showing indifference and indecision

In this chapter you’ll learn how to extend, accept, and tactfully refuse an invitation to a variety of interesting and popular tourist attractions and sights.
VERBS FOR INVITATIONS

You may use the verb *vouloir* (to want) to extend an invitation:

**vouloir, to want**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>je veux</td>
<td>I want</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu veux</td>
<td>you want</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il, elle, on veut</td>
<td>he, she, one wants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous voulons</td>
<td>we want</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vous voulez</td>
<td>you want</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ils, elles veulent</td>
<td>they want</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special Uses of Vouloir**

*Vouloir* usually expresses strong will and is similar to a command: *Elle ne veut pas venir.* (She doesn’t want to come./She will not come.)

- Use the conditional of *vouloir* to be more courteous: *Je voudrais venir.* (I would like to come.)
- Use the command form—*veuillez* + infinitive—to express a polite command: *Veuillez venir avec nous.* (Please come with us.)
- The phrase *vouloir bien* means “to be willing, to be good enough to”:
  *Tu veux bien venir avec nous?* (Would you like to come with us?)

Or you may use the verb *pouvoir* (to be able to, can) to ask whether someone is available:

**pouvoir, to be able to, can**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>je peux</td>
<td>I am able to, can</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu peux</td>
<td>you are able to, can</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il, elle, on peut</td>
<td>he, she, one is able to, can</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous pouvons</td>
<td>we are able to, can</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vous pouvez</td>
<td>you are able to, can</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ils, elles peuvent</td>
<td>they are able to, can</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special Uses of Pouvoir**

*Pouvoir* can be used as follows:

- To express ability: *Tu peux jouer du piano.* (You can play piano.)
• To express permissibility or possibility: *Tu peux venir.* (You may come.) *Il peut venir demain.* (He is able to come tomorrow.)
• The conditional of *pouvoir* means “might, could”: *Nous pourrions venir demain.* (We could [might] come tomorrow.)
• *Pouvoir* may be used idiomatically in the following expressions:

  n’y pouvoir rien (to be beyond one’s control):
  
  Je n’y peux rien.  
  I can’t do anything about it./
  It’s beyond my control.

  n’en pouvoir plus (to be exhausted, worn out):
  
  Je n’en peux plus.  
  I’m exhausted./I’m worn out.

To extend an invitation, you use the verbs discussed in this section, plus an infinitive:

  Do you want to go . . . ?  
  Vous voulez aller . . . ?  
  Tu veux aller . . . ?

  Can you go out . . . ?  
  Vous pouvez sortir . . . ?  
  Tu peux sortir . . . ?

**NOTE**

To be very polite, use the conditional of the verb *vouloir* or *pouvoir* to extend your invitation:

  Would you like to go . . . ?  
  Voudriez-vous aller . . . ?

  Could you go out . . . ?  
  Pourrais-tu sortir . . . ?

**PREPOSITIONS**

You can use the prepositions below to show the relation of a noun to another word in a sentence. Prepositions come in handy when you’re extending an invitation, as well as in common everyday situations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>about</th>
<th>de</th>
<th>behind</th>
<th>derrière</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>according to</td>
<td>selon</td>
<td>between</td>
<td>entre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>after</td>
<td>après</td>
<td>by, through</td>
<td>par</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>against</td>
<td>contre</td>
<td>despite</td>
<td>malgré</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>among</td>
<td>parmi</td>
<td>during</td>
<td>pendant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the house of</td>
<td>chez</td>
<td>except</td>
<td>sauf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>before</td>
<td>avant</td>
<td>for</td>
<td>pour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some prepositions require special attention. The selection of the correct word for *in*, when referring to a place, may present some difficulty. The following explanations should help eliminate any problems:

**Dans, À, and En**
- *Dans* means “inside, within an enclosed or specific place”: *J’habite dans un petit appartement.* (I live in a small apartment.)
- *À* + definite article refers to a general location where specific boundaries are not suggested or implied. *À* + definite article must be used when the place named is an institution, such as a museum, church, or college, unless “inside the building” is meant: *Nous allons au musée.* (We are going to the museum.)
- *En* is usually used instead of *À* + definite article in the following expressions: *en ville* (downtown, in the city); *en mer* (at sea); *en prison* (in jail); *Nous dinons en ville.* (We are dining out [in the city, downtown].)
Dans is usually used with an indefinite article (un, une, des), whereas à is usually used with a definite article (le, la, l’, les):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Il habite dans une maison.</td>
<td>He lives in a house.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il est à la maison.</td>
<td>He is at home.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

À and De
As seen above, the prepositions à (to) and de (from) are used when referring to places other than countries. It is important to contract à and de with the definite article (the), as shown below, before a masculine singular or any plural noun. À and de do not contract with la or l’:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>à + le</td>
<td>Ils vont au café.</td>
<td>They are going to the café.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>à + les</td>
<td>Elle va aux magasins.</td>
<td>She is going to the stores.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de + le</td>
<td>Il parle du match.</td>
<td>He talks about the match.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de + les</td>
<td>Elle parle des nouvelles.</td>
<td>She speaks about the news.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Places
If you are a traveler, student, or businessperson in the French-speaking world, or if you happen to meet a French speaker who needs assistance in your own hometown, you will find the names of the places listed below quite useful.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amusement</th>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Mall</th>
<th>Commercial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>amusement</td>
<td>le parc d’attractions</td>
<td>mall</td>
<td>le centre commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beach</td>
<td>la plage</td>
<td>movies</td>
<td>le cinéma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>castle</td>
<td>le château</td>
<td>museum</td>
<td>le musée</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cathedral</td>
<td>la cathédrale</td>
<td>nightclub</td>
<td>la boîte de nuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>church</td>
<td>l’église (f.)</td>
<td>park</td>
<td>le parc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>club</td>
<td>la discothèque</td>
<td>restaurant</td>
<td>le restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fountain</td>
<td>la fontaine</td>
<td>square</td>
<td>la place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>garden</td>
<td>le jardin</td>
<td>theater</td>
<td>le théâtre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>library</td>
<td>la bibliothèque</td>
<td>zoo</td>
<td>le zoo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STRESS PRONOUNS

Stress pronouns are so named because they are pronouns that you use to emphasize a certain fact, and they may highlight or replace certain nouns or pronouns. Stress pronouns are also used after prepositions. In many cases, stress pronouns are useful for extending an invitation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>STRESS PRONOUN</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>je</td>
<td>moi</td>
<td>I, me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu</td>
<td>toi</td>
<td>you (familiar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il</td>
<td>lui</td>
<td>he, him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elle</td>
<td>elle</td>
<td>she</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on</td>
<td>soi</td>
<td>oneself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous</td>
<td>nous</td>
<td>we, us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vous</td>
<td>vous</td>
<td>you (polite)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ils</td>
<td>eux</td>
<td>they, them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elles</td>
<td>elles</td>
<td>they, them</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE

The stress pronoun *soi* is used with an indefinite subject such as *on* (one), *chacun* (each one), and *tout le monde* (everyone): *On pense à soi.* (One thinks of oneself.)

You can use stress pronouns in situations where you would like to extend an invitation, or in other everyday conversations as follows:

- In situations where you want to stress the subject: *Moi, je voudrais aller au cinéma. Et toi, tu veux venir?* (Me, I’d like to go to the movies. And you, do you want to come?)
- When the pronoun has no verb: *Qui veut aller au musée? —Moi.* (Who wants to go to the museum? —Me.)
- After prepositions when referring to a person or persons: *Vous voulez aller chez lui?* (Do you want to go to his house?)
- After *c'est:* *C'est elle qui voudrait aller au cirque.* (She [is the one who] would like to go to the movies.)

NOTE

Although *c'est* means “it is,” *c'est* is popularly used before plural stress pronouns, rather than the more grammatical *ce sont* (they are): *C'est nous.* (It’s us.) *C'est eux.* (It’s them.)
• After the following verbs:
  - avoir affaire à to have business with
  - être à to belong to
  - faire attention à to pay attention to
  - penser à to think about (of)
  - se fier à to trust
  - s'intéresser à to be interested in
  - Ce stylo est à moi. This pen belongs to me.

• In compound subjects: Lucien et lui vont au centre commercial.
  (Lucien and he go to the mall.)
  If moi or toi is one of the stress pronouns in a compound subject,
  the subject pronoun nous or vous, respectively, may be used in sum-
  mary (someone + me = we; someone + you [singular] = you [plural]),
  but it is not required:
  - Luc et moi, nous allons au restaurant./Luc and I are going
  - Anne et toi, vous allez au café./Anne and you are

• With -même(s) to reinforce the subject: Jean est allé lui-même à la
  plage. (John himself went to the beach.)

EXTENDING AN INVITATION

By combining all the elements presented so far in this chapter, you can
now try to extend your own invitation.

1. Start with a verb in its polite or familiar form:

   Vous voulez  Tu veux  Do you want . . . ?
   Vous pouvez  Tu peux  Can you . . . ?
   Vous désirez  Tu désires  Do you wish . . . ?
   Vous avez envie de (d’)  Tu as envie de (d’)  Do you feel like . . . ?

2. Add an infinitive: aller (to go), sortir (to go out), venir (to come).
3. Use the correct form of the à + definite article followed by the name of a place: au café (to the café), à la plage (to the beach), à l’église (to the church), aux fontaines (to the fountains).

4. Add a preposition + a stress pronoun: avec moi (with me), avec nous (with us).

Your final product should look and sound something like this example: Vous voulez aller au cinéma avec nous? (Do you want to go to the movies with us?)

**ACCEPTING AN INVITATION**

Perhaps you receive an invitation that intrigues you. Saying yes is easy. Just nod your head and use the word oui to show your eager acceptance. You may also use any of the phrases listed below:

- And how!/You bet! Et comment!
- Gladly! Volontiers!
- Great! Chouette!
- If you want to. Si tu veux./Si vous voulez.
- OK./I agree. D’accord.
- Of course. Bien entendu./Bien sûr.
- Thank you. Merci.
- I thank you. Je vous (te) remercie.
- Thank you very much. Merci beaucoup.
- That’s a good idea. C’est une bonne idée.
- There’s no doubt about it. Il n’y a pas de doute.
- Why not? Pourquoi pas?
- With pleasure. Avec plaisir.

To express the phrase “You’re welcome,” you can use any of these phrases:
- De rien.
- Il n’y a pas de quoi.
- Je vous en prie.
REFUSING AN INVITATION
Refusing is another story because you must remain tactful. An invitation can be cordially and politely refused by expressing regrets and giving a valid excuse. The phrases you may need to use in both formal and informal situations are:

Unfortunately . . .
I can’t.
I don’t feel like it.
I don’t have the money.
I don’t have the time.
I don’t want to.
I’m busy.
I’m not free.
I’m sorry.
I’m tired.
It’s impossible.
It’s too late.
Not again!
Perhaps some other time.

Malheureusement . . .
Je ne peux pas.
Je n’ai pas envie.
Je n’ai pas l’argent.
Je n’ai pas le temps.
Je ne veux pas.
Je suis occupé(e).
Je ne suis pas libre.
Je regrette./Je suis désolé.
Je suis fatigué(e).
C’est impossible.
C’est trop tard.
Encore!
Une autre fois peut-être.

EXPRESSING INDECISION AND INDIFFERENCE
If you receive an invitation and are at a loss as to what to do, express your indecision or indifference by using the phrases below:

I don’t have any preference.
I really don’t know.
It depends.
It’s all the same to me.
Perhaps./Maybe.
Whatever you want.

Je n’ai pas de préférence.
Je ne sais vraiment pas.
Ça dépend.
Ça m’est égal.
Peut-être.
Ce que tu préfères (vous préférerez).
The simplest of all the French negatives is *ne . . . pas*, which expresses “not.” In simple and compound tenses, *ne* precedes the conjugated verb (in compound tenses, the helping verb) and *pas* follows it:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIMPLE</th>
<th>COMPOUND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Je ne finis pas mon travail.</td>
<td>Je n’ai pas fini mon travail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(I’m not finishing my work.)</td>
<td>(I didn’t finish my work.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*at a particular, specific moment in time:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIMPLE</th>
<th>COMPOUND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Je ne finissais pas mon travail.</td>
<td>Je n’avais pas fini mon travail . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(I wasn’t finishing my work.)</td>
<td>(I hadn’t finished my work . . . )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*in general—at no specific moment:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIMPLE</th>
<th>COMPOUND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Je ne finirai pas mon travail.</td>
<td>Je n’aurai pas fini mon travail . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(I will not finish my work.)</td>
<td>(I will not have finished my work . . . )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Je ne finirais pas mon travail.</td>
<td>Je n’aurais pas fini mon travail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(I wouldn’t finish my work.)</td>
<td>(I wouldn’t have finished my work.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When a sentence has two verbs, you need to remember that *ne . . . pas* goes around the conjugated verb: *Je ne veux pas aller au parc.* (I don’t want to go to the park.) *Nous ne pouvons pas sortir.* (We can’t go out.)

**NE . . . PAS WITH REFLEXIVE VERBS**

In simple and compound tenses, the *ne* precedes the reflexive pronoun and the *pas* follows the conjugated verb (in compound tenses, the helping verb *être)*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIMPLE</th>
<th>COMPOUND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Je ne me rase pas.</td>
<td>Nous ne nous sommes pas rasés.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(I don’t shave.)</td>
<td>(We didn’t shave.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tu ne te rasais pas.</td>
<td>Vous ne vous étiez pas rasé(s).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(You weren’t shaving.)</td>
<td>(You hadn’t shaved.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il ne se rasera pas.</td>
<td>Ils ne se seront pas rasés.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(He will not shave.)</td>
<td>(They will not have shaved.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vous ne vous raseriez pas.</td>
<td>Vous ne vous seriez pas rasés.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(You wouldn’t shave.)</td>
<td>(You wouldn’t have shaved.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When an infinitive is negated, both *ne* and *pas* precede the infinitive:

Il a décidé de ne pas venir. He decided not to come.

Il a décidé de ne pas se raser. He decided not to shave.
TIME’S UP!

You’ve done a good job with this lesson if you can do the following without looking back:

1. Extend an invitation to a new acquaintance to go to a restaurant with you.
2. Extend an invitation to a friend to go to the museum with you and your family.
3. Accept an invitation to a nightclub.
4. Accept an invitation to visit a cathedral.
5. Refuse an invitation to the beach.
6. Refuse an invitation to the mall.
7. Give an excuse why you can’t go to the zoo.
8. Give an excuse why you can’t go to the gardens.
9. Show indifference about going to the movies.
10. Show indecision about going to see the fountains.
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Working with Numbers

MASTER THESE SKILLS

- Using cardinal numbers
- Using ordinal numbers
- Expressing days, months, seasons, and dates
- Telling time

In this lesson you'll learn the essentials for making plans: numbers, and how they are used to express the date and tell time, and how to combine all these elements in the chapter to plan an outing.
CARDINAL NUMBERS

The French write two numbers differently from how we do. The number one has a little hook on top, like a typewritten number: 1. In order to distinguish a one with a hook on top from the number seven, the French put a line through the seven when they write it: 7–.

In numerals and decimals, where English speakers use commas the French use periods, and vice versa:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>3,000</th>
<th>.75</th>
<th>$18.95</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>0,75</td>
<td>18,95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Carefully study the French cardinal numbers presented below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CARDINAL</th>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>CARDINAL</th>
<th>FRENCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>zéro</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>vingt et un</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>un</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>vingt-deux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>deux</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>trente</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>trois</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>quarante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>quatre</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>cinquante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>cinq</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>soixante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>six</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>soixante-dix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>sept</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>soixante et onze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>huit</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>soixante-douze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>neuf</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>soixante-treize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>dix</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>soixante-quatorze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>onze</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>soixante-quinze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>douze</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>soixante-seize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>treize</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>soixante-dix-sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>quatorze</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>soixante-dix-huit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>quinze</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>soixante-dix-neuf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>seize</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>quatre-vingts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>dix-sept</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>quatre-vingt-un</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>dix-huit</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>quatre-vingt-deux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>dix-neuf</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>quatre-vingt-dix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>vingt</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>quatre-vingt-onze</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Note the following about French numbers:

- To express your age, use the idiomatic expression *avoir . . . ans*, given in Chapter 22:00: *J'ai vingt-six ans*. (I'm twenty-six years old.)
- To express numbers between 1,000 and 10,000 in words, you can avoid using *mille* and simply use *cent*: 1,100 = *mille cent* or *onze cents*; 1,900 = *mille neuf cents* or *dix-neuf cents*.
- The conjunction *et* (and) is used only for the numbers 21, 31, 41, 51, 61, and 71. In all other compound numbers through 99, a hyphen is used.
- Before a feminine noun, *un* becomes *une*: *vingt et un hommes*, *vingt et une femmes*.
- To form 70–79, use: *soixante + dix*, *onze*, *douze*, etc.
- To form 90–99, use: *quatre-vingt + dix*, *onze*, *douze*, etc.
- When using *quatre-vingts* (80) or the plural of *cent* (100), drop the *s* before another number, but not before a noun: *quatre-vingt-quinze francs*, *quatre-vingts francs*; *deux cent cinquante dollars*, *deux cents dollars*.
- *Un* is not used before *cent* (100) or *mille* (1,000): *cent hommes*, *mille femmes*.
- *Mille* doesn’t take *s* in the plural: *deux mille dollars*.
- *Mille* is sometimes written *mil* in dates: *Je suis né en mil neuf cent soixante-quatre*.

**Nouns of Number**

Certain numbers are used as collective nouns to express a round number:

- *une dizaine* about ten *une centaine* about a hundred
- *une douzaine* a dozen *un millier* about a thousand
- *une quinzaine* about fifteen *un million* a million
- *une vingtaine* about twenty *un milliard* a billion
- *une cinquantaine* about fifty
These numbers are followed by *de* (*d’*) before another noun. In the plural, add *s* to these numbers:

- *une centaine de familles* — about a hundred families
- *deux douzaines d’oeufs* — two dozen eggs
- *des milliers de gens* — thousands of people

**PRONUNCIATION GUIDE**

When numbers are used before plural nouns beginning with a vowel or vowel sound, the pronunciation of the numbers changes to allow for elision:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BEFORE A CONSONANT</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
<th>BEFORE A VOWEL</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>deux valises</td>
<td>duh vah-leez</td>
<td>deux enfants</td>
<td>duh zahN-fahN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trois dollars</td>
<td>twah doh-lahr</td>
<td>trois hommes</td>
<td>twah zohm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quatre garçons</td>
<td>kahr gahr-sohN</td>
<td>quatre années</td>
<td>kaht rah-nay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cinq femmes</td>
<td>saNk fahm</td>
<td>cinq ans</td>
<td>saN kahN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>six francs</td>
<td>see frahN</td>
<td>six artistes</td>
<td>see zahr-teest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sept dames</td>
<td>seht dahm</td>
<td>sept heures</td>
<td>seh tuhr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>huit familles</td>
<td>wee fah-mee-y</td>
<td>huit acteurs</td>
<td>wee tahk-tuhr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neuf personnes</td>
<td>nuhf pehr-sohn</td>
<td>neuf autos</td>
<td>nuh fo-to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dix phrases</td>
<td>dee frahz</td>
<td>dix oranges</td>
<td>dee zoh-rahNzh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ORDINAL NUMBERS**

Ordinal numbers are very important when you are in an elevator building, such as an apartment building or a department store. Note that *le sous-sol* is the basement, *le rez-de-chaussée* is the ground or main floor, and *le premier étage* is the first floor above ground level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORDINAL</th>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>ORDINAL</th>
<th>FRENCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>premier (première)</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>septième</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>deuxième, second(e)</td>
<td>8th</td>
<td>huitième</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>troisième</td>
<td>9th</td>
<td>neuvième</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>quatrième</td>
<td>10th</td>
<td>dixième</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>cinquième</td>
<td>11th</td>
<td>onzième</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>sixième</td>
<td>12th</td>
<td>douzième</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Note the following about ordinal numbers:

- Ordinal numbers agree in number with the nouns they describe. *Premier (première)* and *second (seconde)* are the only ordinal numbers that have a feminine form: *le premier garçon* (the first boy), *la première fille* (the first girl), *les premières années* (the first years).
- *Second(e)* is generally used in a series of two. In a series with more than two items, use *deuxième*.
- Except for *premier* and *second*, ordinal numbers are formed by adding *-ième* to the cardinal number. Silent *e* is dropped before *-ième: quatrième, onzième,* etc.
- A *u* is added in *cinquième*, and a *v* replaces the *f* in *neuvième*.
- Use *le* or *la* before *huit/huitième* and *onze/onzième*. There is no elision necessary: *le huitième anniversaire* (the 8th anniversary), *le onze juillet* (July 11th).
- In French, cardinal numbers precede ordinal numbers: *Les quatre premières personnes* (the first four people).
- In dates, *premier* is the only ordinal number that is used. For all other days of the month, use the cardinal number: *le premier mai* (May 1st), *le sept mai* (May 7th).
- *Premier* is used only for the first in a series. For 21 through 71, *unième* is added after the conjunction *et* to express “first” with the noun it modifies: *le cinquante et unième match* (the 51st match).

### DAYS, MONTHS, AND SEASONS

#### Days of the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>ENGLISH</strong></th>
<th><strong>FRENCH</strong></th>
<th><strong>ENGLISH</strong></th>
<th><strong>FRENCH</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>lundi</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>vendredi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>mardi</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>samedi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>mercredi</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>dimanche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>jeudi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To express “on a certain day,” the French use the definite article *le*, as explained in Chapter 23:00: *Le dimanche je lave la voiture.* (On Sunday[s] I wash the car.)
Months of the Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>FRENCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>janvier</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>juillet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>février</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>août</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>mars</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>septembre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>avril</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>octobre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>mai</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>novembre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>juin</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>décembre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All months, days of the week, and seasons in French are masculine and are not capitalized unless they are used at the beginning of a sentence.

The Four Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>FRENCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>summer</td>
<td>l’été (m.)</td>
<td>winter</td>
<td>l’hiver (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fall, autumn</td>
<td>l’automne (m.)</td>
<td>spring</td>
<td>le printemps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use the preposition *en* to express “in” with months and seasons, except with *printemps*, when *au* is used:

- en juillet (in July)  en été (in the summer)
- en septembre (in September) en automne (in the fall)
- en décembre (in December) en hiver (in the winter)
- en mai (in May)  au printemps (in the spring)

An important fact to remember if you have a lot of appointments in a French-speaking country is that French calendars start with Monday as the first day of the week.

Time Expressions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>FRENCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a day</td>
<td>un jour</td>
<td>eve</td>
<td>la veille</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a week</td>
<td>une semaine</td>
<td>day before</td>
<td>avant-hier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a month</td>
<td>un mois</td>
<td>yesterday</td>
<td>hier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a year</td>
<td>un an/une année</td>
<td>yesterday</td>
<td>hier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dates in French can be expressed in several ways:

lundi onze juillet 2000  lundi le onze juillet 2000  le lundi onze juillet 2000

Note the following when expressing a date:

• The first of each month is expressed by premier. Cardinal numbers are used for all other days: le premier avril (April 1st), le deux août (August 2nd).

• Years are usually expressed in hundreds, just like in English: dix-neuf cent quatre-vingt-dix-neuf (1999), but mille (mil) neuf cent quatre-vingt-dix-neuf (1999) can also be used. To express “in the year 2000” say: en l’an deux mil. The year 2001 (and so forth) would be expressed deux mil(le)un.

• When writing the date in numbers, the French follow the sequence: day + month + year: le 22 janvier 2004, or 22/1/04 (January 22, 2004, or 1/22/04).

• The word for year, an, is used with ordinal numbers (1, 2, 3, etc.) unless an adjective is used to describe the word year. In that case, the word année is used. Sometimes either word is acceptable:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>un an</td>
<td>a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>une année</td>
<td>a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trois bonnes années</td>
<td>three good years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quelques années</td>
<td>a few years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l’an dernier</td>
<td>last year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l’année dernière</td>
<td>last year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• The English words on and of are not expressed in French dates:
  *J’arrive le vingt-deux avril.* (I’m arriving on April 22nd.) *Il part le douze juin.* (He’s leaving on the 12th of June.)

To get information about the day or the date of an event, you will need the following questions and answers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Question</th>
<th>French Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What day is today?</td>
<td>Quel jour est-ce (aujourd’hui)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Today is . . .</td>
<td>C’est aujourd’hui . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What day is today?</td>
<td>Quel jour sommes-nous (aujourd’hui)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Today is . . .</td>
<td>Nous sommes (aujourd’hui) . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s today’s date?</td>
<td>Quelle est la date d’aujourd’hui?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Today is . . .</td>
<td>C’est aujourd’hui . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the date of the . . . ?</td>
<td>Quelle est la date du (de la, de l’, des) . . ?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remember that the adjective *ouvert* or *fermé* must agree in number and gender with the noun it modifies (see Chapter 19:00): *Le musée est fermé quels jours?* (The museum is closed on what days?) *Les bibliothèques sont ouvertes quels jours?* (What days are the libraries open?)

**TELLING TIME**

When making plans, you need to know at what time you will meet and when an event is going to take place.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Question</th>
<th>French Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What time is it?</td>
<td>Quelle heure est-il?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—It is . . .</td>
<td>—Il est . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At what time does . . . start?</td>
<td>À quelle heure commence(nt) . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—At . . .</td>
<td>—À . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At what times does . . . end?</td>
<td>À quelle heure finit (finissent) . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—At . . .</td>
<td>—À . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At what time shall we meet?</td>
<td>À quelle heure on se rejoint?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—At . . .</td>
<td>—À . . .</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>French Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>une heure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:05</td>
<td>deux heures cinq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:10</td>
<td>trois heures dix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15</td>
<td>quatre heures et quart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:20</td>
<td>cinq heures vingt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:35</td>
<td>huit heures moins vingt-cinq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:40</td>
<td>neuf heures moins vingt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45</td>
<td>dix heures moins le quart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:50</td>
<td>onze heures moins dix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:55</td>
<td>midi moins cinq</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To express time properly, remember the following:

- To express time after the hour, the number of minutes is added. *Et* (and) is used only with *quart* (quarter) and *demi(e)* (half).
- *Moins* (less, minus) is used to express time before the hour.
- *Moins le* is used before *quart*.

When making plans, you will need to know how to form a variety of questions. Look at the phrases below. You may mix and match any of the elements in the columns to get a correct sentence. Use the forms shown here when you know the person well. To be formal, use the *vous* form, as shown in Chapter 17:00: *Tu veux sortir quand?* (When do you want to go out?) *Tu peux partir à quelle heure?* (At what time can you leave?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>FRENCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a second</td>
<td>une seconde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a minute</td>
<td>une minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an hour</td>
<td>une heure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the morning, A.M.</td>
<td>du matin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the afternoon, R.M.</td>
<td>de l’après-midi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
in the evening, P.M. du soir
at exactly midnight à minuit précis
at exactly 1:00 à une heure precise
at exactly 2:00 à deux heures précises
at about 2:00 vers deux heures
a quarter of an hour un quart d’heure
a half hour une demi-heure
in an hour dans une heure
until 2:00 jusqu’à deux heures
before 3:00 avant trois heures
after 3:00 après trois heures
since what time? depuis quelle heure?
an hour ago il y a une heure
early tôt, de bonne heure
late tard
late in arriving en retard

NOTE

1. The f sound in neuf becomes a v sound when liaison is made with heures (hours, o’clock) and ans (years): Il est neuf heures (eel eh nuh vuhr). Il a neuf ans (eel a nuh vahN).
2. In public announcements, such as timetables, the official twenty-four-hour system is commonly used, with midnight as the zero hour: 0 h 40 = 12:40 A.M.; 16 heures = 4:00 P.M.; 21 h 45 = 9:45 P.M.
TIME’S UP!

If you’ve got the numbers, times, dates, and seasons down pat, you should be able to perform the following tasks in French without looking back:

1. Tell how old you are.
2. Ask for today’s date.
3. Express your birth date.
4. Ask what days the museum is closed.
5. Express the season we are in.
6. Give today’s date.
7. Ask your friend when he/she wants to go out.
8. Say what time it is.
9. Ask at what time we’ll be getting back together.
10. Say when le film begins.
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Offering Ideas and Issuing Commands

MASTER THESE SKILLS

• Making proposals
• Giving commands
• Getting there
• Using the pronoun \textit{y}
• Using idioms
• Using \textit{ce + être} or \textit{il est}

In this lesson you'll learn how to be persuasive when you make suggestions and how to use commands to give and receive directions.
MAKING PROPOSALS
In English, when you want to persuade someone to do something or go somewhere, you ask, “How about . . . ?” or use the contraction Let’s.

The words that allow you to make suggestions are quite idiomatic and, therefore, cannot be translated word for word from English to French. There are several ways to get around this problem.

- Use the subject pronoun on (we, you, they, people, one) to refer to an indefinite person. On always takes a third person singular verb (il form) and has several different meanings in English. The active construction with on is often used in French where the passive is used in English: Ici on parle français.
   
   Active: We (You, They, People, One) speak(s) French here.
   
   Passive: French is spoken here.

   You may use on + the third person singular conjugated form of any verb to make a suggestion:

   On danse? Shall we dance?

   Si on allait à la discothèque? What if we went to the discotheque?

- Use avoir envie de + an infinitive to ask what a person feels like doing: Avez-vous envie d’aller au cinéma? (Do you feel like going to the movies?)

- Use vouloir + an infinitive to ask if a person wants to do something:

   Voulez-vous aller au zoo? Do you want to go to the zoo?

   Veux-tu aller au parc? Do you want to go to the park?

- Use the nous form of the verb to express “Let’s . . . ”:

   Allons à l’aquarium! Let’s go to the aquarium!

   Regardons un film! Let’s watch a film!

---

NOTE

After certain short words ending in a pronounced vowel sound, such as et (and), ou (or), où (where), and si (if), the form l’on may be used for pronunciation purposes: si l’on tourne à gauche (if you turn to the left), la chambre où l’on travaille (the room in which we work).
GIVING COMMANDS

Commands are most useful in directing people to locations. The subject of a command is understood to be you, because you are being told where to go or what to do.

There are two ways to say you in French: tu and vous. When tu is the subject, the command is referred to as the familiar command, because tu is used when speaking to a friend or family member. When vous is the subject, the command is referred to as the polite command, as vous is used when speaking formally. Vous is also the subject of a command directed to more than one person; it is the only you pronoun that refers to a plural subject.

To form a command, simply drop the subject pronoun. Use only the correct conjugated verb form: Finis ton travail!/Finissez votre travail! (Finish your work!)

The familiar tu command of -er verbs drops the final s from the conjugated verb in both regular and irregular verbs:

- Regarde le panneau! Look at the sign!
- Descends du train! Get off the train!
- Va à droite! Go to the right!

To make a command negative, put ne . . . pas around the conjugated verb: Ne va pas à gauche. (Don’t go to the left.)

Irregular verbs follow the same rules as regular verbs except for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AVOIR (TO HAVE)</th>
<th>ÊTRE (TO BE)</th>
<th>SAVOIR (TO KNOW)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(tu) aie</td>
<td>sois</td>
<td>sache</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(vous) ayez</td>
<td>soyez</td>
<td>sachez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(nous) ayons</td>
<td>soyons</td>
<td>sachons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commands with Reflexive Verbs

With reflexive verbs, the subject pronoun is dropped but the reflexive pronoun must be used. In negative commands, the reflexive pronoun precedes the verb:

- Ne te lève pas tôt. Don’t get up early.
- Ne vous réveillez pas tard. Don’t wake up late.
- Ne nous dépêchons pas. Let’s not hurry.

In affirmative commands, the reflexive pronoun follows the verb and is attached to it with a hyphen. After the verb, toi is used instead of te:
Lève-toi tôt. Get up early.
Réveillez-vous. Wake up.
Dépêchons-nous. Let’s hurry up.

**GIVING AND RECEIVING DIRECTIONS**

Here are the most frequently used verbs you will need to give or receive directions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIRECTION</th>
<th><strong>TU FORM</strong></th>
<th><strong>VOUS FORM</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>continue</td>
<td>continue</td>
<td>continuez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
<td>traverse</td>
<td>traversez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>get off</td>
<td>descends</td>
<td>descendez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>go</td>
<td>va</td>
<td>allez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>go down</td>
<td>descends</td>
<td>descendez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>go up</td>
<td>monte</td>
<td>montez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pass</td>
<td>passe</td>
<td>passez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take</td>
<td>prends</td>
<td>prenez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn</td>
<td>tournez</td>
<td>tournez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk</td>
<td>marche</td>
<td>marchez</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To give proper directions, you will need the names of the means of transportation. When explaining the means of transportation a person will take, you use a definite article (le, la, les): *Prends l’autobus.* (Take the bus.) But when saying that someone travels by a certain means of transportation, be careful to use the correct preposition as shown:

**Means of Transportation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>en avion</th>
<th>foot</th>
<th>à pied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>airplane</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bicycle</td>
<td>à bicyclette/à vélo</td>
<td>motorcycle</td>
<td>à moto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boat</td>
<td>en bateau</td>
<td>subway</td>
<td>en métro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bus</td>
<td>en bus</td>
<td>taxi</td>
<td>en taxi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>car</td>
<td>en automobile/en voiture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Je vais au supermarché à pied. I walk to the supermarket.
Il voyage en bus. He travels by bus.
Also use à + definite article (au, à la, à l’, aux) to express where to get the transportation you need:

Vous allez à l’aéroport et vous prenez l’avion à la porte numéro six.

You go to the airport and you take the plane at gate number six.

### Where to Go

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where to Go</th>
<th>French Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to the airport</td>
<td>à l’aéroport (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to the bus stop</td>
<td>à l’arrêt (m.) de bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to the gate</td>
<td>à la porte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to the platform</td>
<td>au quai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to the station</td>
<td>à la gare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to the taxi stand</td>
<td>à l’arrêt (m.) de taxi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to the terminal</td>
<td>au terminal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to the track</td>
<td>à la voie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To give or receive adequate directions you also need the prepositions and prepositional and adverbial phrases below showing location and direction.

### Giving and Receiving Directions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Giving and Receiving Directions</th>
<th>French Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>above</td>
<td>dessus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alongside</td>
<td>le long de</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at</td>
<td>à</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the bottom of</td>
<td>au fond de</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the top of</td>
<td>en haut de</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at home</td>
<td>à la maison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>downtown</td>
<td>en ville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>far (from)</td>
<td>loin (de)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from</td>
<td>de</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the country</td>
<td>à la campagne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the direction of</td>
<td>dans la direction de</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nearby</td>
<td>à proximité/près (de)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
on the other side  de l’autre côté
outside                dehors
straight ahead         tout droit
that way               par là
this way               par ici
to                     à
to the left            à gauche
to the right           à droite
underneath            dessous

In English, when we give directions, we often refer to the number of blocks a person has to walk. In French, a block is un pâté de maison, which is a block of houses between two streets. To express how many streets a person must pass, you would say: Prenez la troisième rue. (Take the third street.)

**Getting There**

Understanding and giving directions is an important survival skill for those traveling abroad. Should you get lost and find yourself in need of instructions, the following sentences will prove useful. The blanks can be filled in with proper names or a tourist attraction, store, sporting event, etc.

I’m lost.        Je me suis perdu(e) [égaré(e)].
Can you tell me how to get to . . . ? Pouvez-vous me dire comment aller . . . ?
Where is (are) . . . ? Où se trouve(nt) . . . ?

Being able to follow directions that are given to you will be of utmost importance whether you are lost or simply looking for a place that you can’t seem to locate:

It’s (Is it) far away.(?)        C’est loin.(?)
It’s (Is it) nearby.(?)         C’est tout près.(?)
It’s (Is it) this way.(?)       C’est par ici.(?)
It’s (Is it) that way.(?)       C’est par là.(?)
It’s (Is it) straight ahead.(?) C’est tout droit.(?)
Turn right (left) at the light.
Stop!
Follow me.
It would be better to take (definite article + means of transportation).

And if you are far from your destination:
Is it to the north? C'est au nord?
Is it to the east? C'est à l'est?
Is it to the south? C'est au sud?
Is it to the west? C'est à l'ouest?

**USING THE PRONOUN Y**
The adverbial pronoun y (pronounced ee) means “there” when the place has already been mentioned. Y can also mean “it,” “them,” “in it/them,” “to it/them,” or “on it/them.” Y usually replaces the preposition à + the noun object of the preposition but may also replace other prepositions of location or position, such as chez, dans, en, sous, or sur + noun:

Je vais à Paris. I'm going to Paris.
J'y vais. I'm going there.
Il répond au téléphone. He answers the phone.
Il y répond. He answers it.
Nous restons à l'hôtel. We are staying in the hotel.
Nous y restons. We are staying in it.

Sometimes y is used in French but is not translated into English:

Vous allez au restaurant? Are you going to the restaurant?
—Oui, j'y vais. —Yes, I’m going there.

Vous répondez au courrier? Are you answering the mail?
—Oui, j'y réponds. —Yes, I am.

The pronoun y is used to replace a preposition (à, en, dans) + noun of place or location.

Tu vas à l'aéroport? Are you going to the airport?
—Oui, j'y vais. —Yes, I’m going there.
Le restaurant est dans la gare? Is the restaurant in the station?
—Oui, il y est. —Yes, it is.

Never use y to replace à + a person. Indirect object pronouns are used for this purpose. They will be explained in greater detail in Chapter 10:00.

**Positioning Y**

In simple sentences, y is placed before the verb to which its meaning is tied. When there are two verbs, y is placed before the infinitive:

- Tu y vas. You are going there.
- Tu n’y vas pas. You aren’t going there.
- Tu veux y aller? Do you want to go there?
- Tu ne veux pas y aller? Don’t you want to go there?
- N’y va pas! Don’t go there!

The only time y follows the verb is in an affirmative command: *Allez au carnaval.* (Go to the carnival.) *Allez-y.* (Go there.)

Affirmative familiar commands retain the final s from the conjugated verb before y to prevent the clash of two vowel sounds. A liaison is made between the final consonant of the verb and y: *Va au parc d’attractions.* *Vas-y.* (vah-zee) (Go to the amusement park. Go there.)

In compound tenses, y is placed before the conjugated helping verb:

- J’ai dormi une fois sous les étoiles. I once slept under the stars.
- J’y ai dormi une fois. I once slept there.
- J’ai dormi sous une tente. I slept in a tent.
- J’y ai dormi. I slept there.
- Il était allé en France. He had gone to France.
- Il y était allé. He had gone there.
- Nous serons rentrés à Paris. We will have returned to Paris.
- Nous y serons rentrés. We will have returned there.
- Elle aurait pensé à ses vacances. She would have thought about her vacation.
- Elle y aurait pensé. She would have thought about them.
USING IDIOMS
In English, you use idioms and idiomatic expressions all the time without even realizing that you are doing so. An example will help you understand exactly how an idiom works. When you say, “She fell head over heels for him,” you do not mean, in a literal sense, that she fell head-first and tripped over her feet. To someone who doesn’t speak English well, this sentence would be extremely confusing. But a native speaker instinctively and immediately understands the underlying meaning of this phrase—that she really liked him a lot.

Idioms occur in every language, are generally indigenous to that specific language, and do not translate well from one language to the next. If a French speaker were to say, "Elle a du chien," that would mean that she is attractive, even though the literal translation of the sentence is, She has some dog.

Use these idioms to express your opinions and accentuate the positive:

- still/all the same/ nevertheless: tout de même
- as for me: de ma part
- in my opinion: à mon avis
- of course: bien entendu/bien sûr
- OK: d’accord
- on the contrary: au contraire
- really/utterly: tout à fait
- to tell the truth: à vrai dire
- without a doubt: sans doute

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT
If you would like to persuade someone to do something, positive reinforcement is likely to work. Reinforce your opinions by using the words and expressions below to help you convince even the most stubborn among us:

- It’s a good idea!: C’est une bonne idée!
- It’s extraordinary!: C’est extra!
- It’s great!: C’est chouette!
- It’s important!: C’est important!
- It’s interesting!: C’est intéressant!
It's magnificent! C'est magnifique!
It's marvelous! C'est merveilleux!
It's super! C'est super!

COMPLAINTS
If you have persuaded someone to go along with you and the person is not satisfied, you could expect to hear one of these phrases:

It’s boring! C’est embêtant!/C’est ennuyeux!/C’est la barbe!
It’s disgusting! C’est dégoûtant!
It’s awful! C’est affreux!
It’s horrible! C’est horrible!
It’s ridiculous! C’est ridicule!
It’s unpleasant! C’est désagréable!

Combine an idiom with a positive or negative expression to form a stronger sentence: À mon avis, c’est magnifique. (In my opinion, it’s magnificent.)

USING CE + ÊTRE OR IL EST
The pronoun ce (c’ before a vowel) (it, he, she, this, that, these, those) is most frequently used with the verb être (to be): C’est or Ce sont. Ce replaces il, elle, ils, and elles as the subject of the sentence in the following constructions:

• Before a modified noun:
  C’est une église. It’s a church.
  C’est un musée intéressant That’s an interesting museum.
  Ce sont de bons films These are good movies.

But:
  Il est docteur [unmodified]. He’s a doctor.

• Before a name: C’est Marie. (It’s Marie.)
• Before a stress pronoun: C’est moi. (It is me.)
• Before a superlative: C’est la plus jeune fille.
  (She’s the youngest girl.)
• In dates: *C’est le trois mai.* (It is May 3rd.)
• Before a masculine singular adjective that refers to a previously mentioned idea or action:
  
  Il est important.    He is important.
  —C’est évident. —That’s obvious.
  
  Je peux vous aider? Can I help you?
  —Ce serait inutile. —That would be useless.
• Before an adjective + à + infinitive:
  
  C’est bon à savoir. That’s good to know.
  C’est impossible à faire. That’s impossible to do.

Use *il est* in the following constructions:
• To express the hour of the day: *Il est deux heures.* (It’s two o’clock.)
• With an adjective before *de* + infinitive:
  
  Il est bon de manger. It’s good to eat.
  Il est facile de danser. It’s easy to dance.
• With an adjective before a clause beginning with *que:* *Il est important que je travaille.* (It is important that I work.)

When pronouns refer to a preceding noun, *il* and *elle* are used:

Luc est mon frère.    Luke is my brother. He is very friendly.
Il est très aimable.
J’adore cette cathédrale. I adore this cathedral. It is sensational.
Elle est sensationnelle.

Some adjectives can be used in impersonal expressions using *il est* + adjective + *de* or *c’est* + adjective + à: *Il est impossible de comprendre son accent.* (It’s impossible to understand his accent.) The following adjectives are often used in impersonal expressions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Juste</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>difficult</td>
<td>difficile</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>juste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>doubtful</td>
<td>douteux</td>
<td>fun</td>
<td>amusant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>easy</td>
<td>facile</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>bon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>essential</td>
<td>essentiel</td>
<td>important</td>
<td>important</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
impossible  impossible  scary  effrayant
interesting  intéressant  surprising  étonnant
nice  gentil  unfair  injuste
necessary  nécessaire  urgent  urgent
possible  possible  useful  utile

NOTE
Although the English versions of the following sentences are identical, they have two different meanings in French:

Il est intéressant de lire.  It is interesting to read.
(Reading, in general, is interesting.)

C'est intéressant à lire.  It is interesting to read.
(The material is interesting to read.)

TIME’S UP!
Without looking back, see if you can do the following:
1. Use on to suggest going to a restaurant.
2. Use the nous command to propose going to the zoo.
3. Ask where the Eiffel Tower (la tour Eiffel) is.
4. Using an affirmative command, tell someone to go three blocks.
5. Using a negative command, tell someone not to go straight ahead.
6. Tell a friend to wake up early.
7. Using y, tell someone to go there.
8. Give a positive reason for going to visit Notre-Dame Cathedral.
9. Say that in your opinion, it's great.
10. Give a negative reaction toward going to the theater.
Using French Around the Home

MASTER THESE SKILLS

- Using devoir around the house
- Getting help around the house and in a store
- Understanding and forming the present subjunctive
- Using the subjunctive
- Offering encouragement

In this chapter you’ll learn how to express school and household obligations by using the verb devoir (to have to) or the subjunctive (a mood that shows need, necessity, or obligation). You’ll also learn how to encourage someone to pursue a course of action.
HOUSE AND HOME
In order to refer to the different rooms and parts of a house that might need attention, you’ll need the following vocabulary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French (Masculine)</th>
<th>French (Feminine)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>apartment</td>
<td>l'appartement</td>
<td>garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apartment building</td>
<td>l'immeuble</td>
<td>ground floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>attic</td>
<td>le grenier</td>
<td>hallway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>balcony</td>
<td>le balcon</td>
<td>house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>basement</td>
<td>le sous-sol</td>
<td>kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bathroom</td>
<td>la salle de bains</td>
<td>laundry room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bedroom</td>
<td>la chambre</td>
<td>lawn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>closet</td>
<td>le placard</td>
<td>living room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>den</td>
<td>le living/le séjour</td>
<td>owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>door</td>
<td>la porte</td>
<td>room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elevator</td>
<td>l'ascenseur</td>
<td>shower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>floor</td>
<td>le plancher</td>
<td>stairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>floor (story)</td>
<td>l'étage</td>
<td>toilets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>garage</td>
<td>le garage</td>
<td>window</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In France and other French-speaking countries, the toilets (les toilettes) are generally in a room that is separate from the bathing facilities (la salle de bains), which explains the need for both words. Le bidet is generally found next to the toilet. It is used for intimate personal hygiene.

Naturally, within each room of a home there is furniture and there are appliances that may also need your attention:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>armchair</td>
<td>le fauteuil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bed</td>
<td>le lit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chair</td>
<td>la chaise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clock</td>
<td>l'horloge (f.)/la pendule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dresser</td>
<td>la commode</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## CHORES

Among the most common household chores are those listed here:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>clean the house</td>
<td>nettoyer la maison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cook</td>
<td>cuisiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do the dishes</td>
<td>faire la vaisselle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do the housework</td>
<td>faire le ménage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do the laundry</td>
<td>faire la lessive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>go shopping</td>
<td>faire les courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>make the beds</td>
<td>faire les lits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mow the lawn</td>
<td>tondre la pelouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prepare the meal</td>
<td>préparer le repas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set the table</td>
<td>mettre le couvert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>throw out the garbage</td>
<td>vider les ordures/la poubelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vacuum</td>
<td>passer l’aspirateur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learn the names of the food stores, as well as other establishments that you might want to visit while in a French-speaking country, and the names of some items you might purchase there:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STORE/PRODUCT</th>
<th>FRENCH STORE</th>
<th>FRENCH PRODUCT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bakery/bread</td>
<td>la boulangerie</td>
<td>le pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bookstore/books</td>
<td>la librairie</td>
<td>les livres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>butcher shop/meat</td>
<td>la boucherie</td>
<td>la viande</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fish store/fish</td>
<td>la poissonnerie</td>
<td>le poisson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>florist/flowers</td>
<td>(chez) le fleuriste</td>
<td>les fleurs (f.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fruit store/fruits</td>
<td>la friuterie</td>
<td>les fruits (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grocery/vegetables</td>
<td>l’épicerie (f.)</td>
<td>les légumes (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liquor store/wines</td>
<td>(chez) le marchand de vin</td>
<td>les vins (m.) et spiritueux (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>newsstand/newspapers</td>
<td>le kiosque à journaux</td>
<td>les journaux (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pastry shop/cakes</td>
<td>la pâtisserie</td>
<td>les gâteaux (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pharmacy/medicine</td>
<td>la pharmacie</td>
<td>les médicaments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tobacconist/tobacco</td>
<td>le bureau de tabac</td>
<td>le tabac</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE**

Many of the names of stores end in *-erie*. Drop this ending and add 
*-iér* (for the masculine) and *-ière* (for the feminine) to get the name 
of the person who works in the store: *le boulanger, la boulangère; l’épicier, l’épicière.*

To express that you are going to a store, use the form of *aller* that agrees 
with the subject and one of the following:

- *à* + the appropriate definite article: *Je vais à la crèmerie*. (I’m going to the dairy.)  *Allons au kiosque à journaux*. (Let’s go to the newsstand.)
- *chez* + the person (or business): *Je vais chez le fleuriste*. (I’m going to the florist.)  *Allons chez le boucher*. (Let’s go to the butcher’s.)

**GETTING HELP IN A STORE**

An employee at any type of store may ask you one of these questions to find out if you need assistance:

May I help you? | Puis-je vous aider?/Vous désirez?/ 
Est-ce que je peux vous aider?
An appropriate answer would be:

No, thanks, I’m just browsing.  Non, merci, je regarde tout simplement.
Yes, please. I would like to see . . .  Oui, s’il vous plaît. Je voudrais voir . . .
Yes, I’d like to buy . . . for . . .  Oui, je voudrais acheter . . . à . . .
Yes, I’m looking for . . .  Oui, je cherche . . .
Yes, are there any sales?  Oui, y a-t-il des soldes?

After being helped you might hear the salesperson ask: Ce sera tout? (Will that be all?)
Unless you need to continue with an order or explain other needs, you should respond: Oui, ce sera tout. (Yes, that will be all.)

NOTE

Acheter is generally followed by à to express that the subject is buying something for the use of another person. Acheter pour indicates that the subject is performing an errand for another person; in other words, buying something on behalf of that person.

J’achète un cadeau à Henri.  I’m buying a gift for Henri (to give to him).
J’achète un cadeau pour Henri.  I’m buying a gift for Henri (so he doesn’t have to shop).

DEVOIR—TO HAVE TO
The verb devoir expresses what the subject should do:

je dois  nous devons
tu dois  vous devez
il doit  elles doivent

Uses of Devoir
Devoir has some special uses that allow you to persuade someone to do something when it expresses an obligation:

• Devoir is used primarily to express obligation:
  Je dois cuisiner.  I have to cook./I must cook./
  Je devais sortir à midi.  I was supposed to go out at noon.
• Devoir is used to express probability: *Il doit être en retard.* (He must be late./He is probably late.)
• The conditional of *devoir* means “ought to” or “should” and expresses obligation:
  
  Tu devrais faire les courses. You should go shopping./You ought to go shopping.
  
  Tu aurais dû faire les courses. You should have gone shopping.

• *Devoir* means “to owe” when followed by a noun:
  
  Je dois cinq dollars à Jean. I owe John five dollars.
  
  Vous leur devez une explication. You owe them an explanation.

**NOTE**

When *devoir* is followed by another verb, *devoir* is conjugated and the second verb remains in the infinitive: *Nous devons ranger le salon.*

(We have to straighten the living room.)

**IMPERSONAL EXPRESSIONS**

Like *devoir*, the invariable impersonal expressions *il faut* + infinitive and *il est nécessaire de* (*d’*) + infinitive are also used to express obligation:

  Il faut arroser les fleurs./Il est nécessaire d’arroser les fleurs.

  Vous avez à étudier pour réussir./Il est nécessaire d’étudier pour réussir.

**UNDERSTANDING AND FORMING THE PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE**

Like the conditional, the subjunctive is a mood (a form of the verb showing the subject’s attitude), not a tense (a form of the verb showing time). You may use the subjunctive to persuade someone to follow a course of action because it shows, among other things, wishing and wanting, need and necessity, and feelings and emotions. The subjunctive is used much more frequently in French than in English.

Because the subjunctive is not a tense, the present subjunctive can be used to refer to actions in the present or the future. Although limited in use, the past subjunctive refers to a completed past action.
Il est nécessaire qu’il travaille.  It is necessary for him to work./ He has to work.
Il est important que tu ranges le salon.  It’s important that you straighten the living room.
Il est possible qu’elles arrivent à l’heure.  It’s possible that they will arrive on time.

The following conditions prevail if the subjunctive is to be used:
• The sentence usually must contain two clauses with two different subjects.
• The clauses must be joined by que (that) or, in special instances, by qui.
• One of the clauses must show need, necessity, emotion, or doubt.

The Subjunctive of Regular Verbs
To form the present subjunctive of regular verbs, and many irregular verbs, drop the -ent from the third person plural (ils/elles) form of the present and add these subjunctive endings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-ER VERBS</th>
<th>-IR VERBS</th>
<th>-RE VERBS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aider (to help)</td>
<td>agir (to act)</td>
<td>vendre (to sell)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ils aident</td>
<td>ils agissent</td>
<td>ils vendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>que j’aide</td>
<td>que j’agisse</td>
<td>que je vende</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>que tu aides</td>
<td>que tu agisses</td>
<td>que tu vendes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qu’il aide</td>
<td>qu’il agisse</td>
<td>qu’il vende</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>que nous aidions</td>
<td>que nous agissions</td>
<td>que nous vendions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>que vous aidiez</td>
<td>que vous agissiez</td>
<td>que vous vendiez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qu’ils aident</td>
<td>qu’ils agissent</td>
<td>qu’ils vendent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbs with Two Stems
Some irregular verbs and most shoe verbs use two different stems to form the present subjunctive:

• The ils stem of the present indicative for je, tu, il/elle/on, ils/elles
• The nous form of the present indicative for nous and vous

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IRREGULAR VERB</th>
<th>ILS STEM</th>
<th>NOUS STEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>boire (to drink)</td>
<td>boiv-</td>
<td>buv-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>croire (to believe)</td>
<td>croi-</td>
<td>croy-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>devoir (to have to)</td>
<td>doiv-</td>
<td>dev-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Verbs Irregular in the Subjunctive

Some verbs follow no rules for the formation of the subjunctive and must be memorized. The ones that are used the most frequently are:

**aller (to go)**

... que j'aille ... que nous allions

... que tu ailles ... que vous alliez

... qu'il aille ... qu'ils aillent

**vouloir (to want)**

... que je veuille ... que nous voulions

... que tu veuilles ... que vous vouliez

... qu'il veuille ... qu'ils veuillent

**faire (to do)**

... que je fasse ... que nous fassions

... que tu fasses ... que vous fassiez

... qu'il fasse ... qu'ils fassent

Verbs that end in -cer have no change in the subjunctive because c followed by e or i always produces a soft sound. Note the pronunciation of these phrases: *que je commence* (kuh zhuh koh-mahN), *que nous commencions* (kuh noo koh-mahN-syohN).
Expressions of Need and Necessity

The subjunctive may be used to persuade someone of the need or necessity to do something or to make requests or demands. The expressions below will allow you to do this because they are typically followed by the subjunctive.

It is better that . . . Il vaut mieux que . . .
It is essential that . . . Il est essentiel que . . .
It is fitting that . . . Il convient que . . .
It is imperative that . . . Il est impératif que . . .
It is important that . . . Il est important que . . .
It is indispensable that . . . Il est indispensable que . . .
It is necessary that . . . Il est nécessaire que . . . Il faut que . . .
It is preferable that . . . Il est préférable que . . .
It is time that . . . Il est temps que . . .
It is urgent that . . . Il est urgent que . . .
It is useful that . . . Il est utile que . . .
It is important that you go to the supermarket. Il est important que tu ailles au supermarché.
It is urgent that he call the doctor. Il est urgent qu’il téléphone au docteur.

The subjunctive is used more often in French than in English. Be aware that the French subjunctive may have many different meanings in English and usually does not allow for an exact word-for-word translation: Il est nécessaire que tu fasses la vaisselle. (You have to do the dishes./It is necessary that you do the dishes.)

In French, the subjunctive is often equivalent to an infinitive in English: Je voudrais que tu fasses la lessive. (I would like you to do the laundry.)

**Verbs of Wishing and Wanting**
The subjunctive is used in the clause following the verbs listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aimer mieux</td>
<td>to prefer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>commander</td>
<td>to order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conseiller</td>
<td>to advise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>demander</td>
<td>to ask</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>désirer</td>
<td>to desire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exiger</td>
<td>to demand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insister</td>
<td>to insist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>préférer</td>
<td>to prefer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>souhaiter</td>
<td>to wish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suggérer</td>
<td>to suggest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vouloir</td>
<td>to want</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Il demande que je fasse le travail. He asks that I do the work./He asks me to do the work.

When using the subjunctive in English, we often omit the word *that*. In French, *que* must always be used to join the two clauses:

Il est important qu’il lave la voiture. It’s important he wash the car.

J’aime mieux que tu tondes la pelouse. I prefer you mow the lawn.
Avoiding the Subjunctive
In all of the examples shown thus far, the verb in the dependent clause (where the subjunctive is used) and the verb in the main clause (need, necessity, wishing, or wanting) have different subjects. If the subjects in both clauses are the same, *que* is omitted and the infinitive replaces the subjunctive:

- **Elle voudrait que j'aille à la boulangerie.**  
  **She would like me to go to the bakery.**
- **Elle voudrait aller à la boulangerie.**  
  **She would like to go to the bakery.**

**NOTE**
Whenever possible, try to use *devoir* + infinitive rather than the subjunctive.

**THE PAST SUBJUNCTIVE**
The past subjunctive expresses an action that has taken place. The past subjunctive is formed in the same manner as other compound tenses. Take the subjunctive form of the helping verb *avoir* or *être* and add the past participle: *je voulais qu'ils soient rentrés tôt.* (I wanted them to have returned early.)

**OFFERING ENCOURAGEMENT**
We have seen how the subjunctive can be used to persuade someone to follow a course of action. The best way to persuade someone to do something, whether it be a chore or a fun activity, is to offer a bit of encouragement.

- A little more effort!  
  **Encore un petit effort!**
- Don’t hesitate!  
  **N’hésitez pas!**
- Go for it!  
  **Allez-y!**
- It’s coming along!  
  **Ça vient!**
- Keep going!  
  **Continuez!**
- That’s fine!  
  **C’est bien!**
- You have to try!  
  **Il faut oser!**
- You’re almost there!  
  **Vous y êtes presque!**
- You’re getting there!  
  **Vous y arrivez!**
NOTE

All of the phrases of encouragement can be changed to the familiar by using *tu* and its corresponding verb form.

TIME’S UP!

Without referring to the chapter, see if you can tell someone that:

1. you are just browsing (in a store).
2. you’d like to buy a car for your family.
3. he/she has to listen.
4. he/she is supposed to go to the bakery.
5. he/she ought to make the beds.
6. he/she owes five dollars.
7. it is necessary to go shopping.
8. you want him/her to throw out the garbage.
9. you want to go to the bookstore.

And finally:

10. Encourage someone to do the housework.
Asking Questions

MASTER THESE SKILLS

- Asking yes/no questions
- Asking for information
- Getting around
- Questioning new acquaintances

In this lesson you’ll learn how to ask questions in a variety of ways. No matter what the situation, no matter what your needs, you’ll be able to get the information you seek.
ASKING YES/NO QUESTIONS

The easiest questions, by far, are those that demand a simple yes or no answer. There are four ways to obtain this information. You can use:

- Intonation
- The tag n’est-ce pas? (isn’t that so?)
- Est-ce que
- Inversion

Using Intonation

Questions are often asked by changing your intonation and raising your voice at the end of a statement. In conversation, just put an imaginary question mark at the end of your thought and speak with a rising inflection. In writing, don’t forget to insert the question mark: Vous avez envie d’aller au cinéma? (Do you feel like going to the movies?)

When you speak with a rising inflection, your voice starts out lower and gradually keeps rising until the end of the sentence. In a sentence that states a fact, your voice rises and then lowers by the end of the sentence.

To form a negative question, simply put ne . . . pas around the conjugated verb in simple and compound tenses, and when there are two verbs:

- Vous n’avez pas envie d’aller au cinéma? Don’t you feel like going to the movies?
- Tu n’as pas fait les courses? Didn’t you go shopping?
- Il ne voulait pas travailler? Didn’t he want to work?

Using N’est-ce Pas?

N’est-ce pas? is a tag that can have a variety of meanings: “isn’t that so?,” “right?,” “isn’t (doesn’t) he/she/it?,” “aren’t (don’t) they?,” “aren’t (don’t) we?,” “aren’t (don’t) you?,” and so on. N’est-ce pas? may be placed at the end of a statement, especially when the expected answer is yes: Vous avez envie d’aller au cinéma, n’est-ce pas? (You feel like going to the movies, don’t you?)

Using Est-ce Que

Any statement may be turned into a question by beginning the sentence with est-ce que. Est-ce que is invariable regardless of the form of the verb that follows: Est-ce que vous avez envie d’aller au cinéma? (Do you feel like going to the movies?)

To make the question negative, simply put ne . . . pas around the conjugated verb:
Est-ce que vous n’avez pas envie d’aller au cinéma?
Don’t you feel like going to the movies?

Est-ce qu’il ne voulait pas travailler?
 Didn’t he want to work?

**NOTE**
Do not try to translate est-ce que; it has no meaning and only indicates that a question will follow. The translated do (does) in the question is part of the verb. Note that est-ce que becomes est-ce qu’ before a vowel or vowel sound: Est-ce qu’il a envie d’aller au cinéma? (Does he feel like going to the movies?)

**Using Inversion**
Inversion refers to reversing the word order of the subject pronoun and the conjugated verb form in order to form a question. A hyphen is used to join the verb to its subject pronoun.

Avoid inverting with je. It is awkward and is very rarely used except in the following:

- ai-je . . . ? do I have . . . ?
- suis-je . . . ? am I . . . ?
- dois-je . . . ? must I . . . ?
- puis-je . . . ? may I . . . ? (used to ask for permission)

Inversion occurs only with subject pronouns (not nouns) and conjugated verbs. The interrogative is formed by placing the pronoun after the verb and connecting the two words with a hyphen. Inversion takes place in all tenses—simple and compound, with reflexive verbs, and when there are two verbs in the sentence, as follows:

- Vous allez au cinéma. Allez-vous au cinéma?
- Ils sont partis à l’heure. Sont-ils partis à l’heure?
- Tu voudrais sortir. Voudrais-tu sortir?
- Elles se lèvent tard. Se lèvent-elles tard?
- Il s’est levé tard. S’est-il levé tard?
- Elle doit faire les courses. Doit-elle faire les courses?

When the third person singular (il or elle) form ends in a vowel, a -t- is inserted between the verb and the subject pronoun. This is necessary to
avoid having two vowels together. This problem occurs mainly in the present tense with verbs in the -er family, because third person singular forms for -ir and -re verbs end in a consonant. In the passé composé, the helping verb avoir requires the -t- when the subject is il or elle:

Elle voyage aujourd’hui.        Voyage-t-elle aujourd’hui?
Elle a voyagé.                A-t-elle voyagé?
Il se prépare.                Se prépare-t-il?
Il s’est préparé.             S’est-il préparé?
Il finit la leçon.             Finit-il la leçon?
Il a fini la leçon.            A-t-il fini la leçon?
Elle perd ses bagages.        Perd-elle ses bagages?
Elle a perdu ses bagages.      A-t-elle perdu ses bagages?

When the subject of the verb is a noun, a double-subject construction is used: noun + verb + third person pronoun of the same gender and number as the subject. In this case, inversion occurs with the verb and the pronoun that corresponds to the subject:

Le garçon est français.        Le garçon est-il français?
Jean et Luc ont travaillé.    Jean et Luc ont-ils travaillé?
Marie a un problème.          Marie a-t-elle un problème?
Les voitures se sont arrêtées. Les voitures se sont-elles arrêtées?

To make a question with inversion negative, put ne and pas around the inverted verb and pronoun. For reflexive verbs, remember to keep the appropriate reflexive pronoun before the conjugated verb, from which it may not be separated. In compound tenses, the past participle comes after pas:

Le garçon est-il français?      Le garçon n’est-il pas français?
Voudrais-tu sortir?            Ne voudrais-tu pas sortir?
A-t-elle voyagé?               N’a-t-elle pas voyagé?
Se prépare-t-il?               Ne se prépare-t-il pas?
Les voitures se sont-elles arrêtées?   Les voitures ne se sont-elles pas arrêtées?
Étaient-ils allés à Paris?     N’étaient-ils pas allés à Paris?
INFORMATION QUESTIONS
No matter what your reason for studying French, many occasions will arise where a simple yes/no response is inadequate. For this reason, it is important to know how to ask for information. Interrogative adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns will allow you to accomplish this task.

Interrogative Adjectives
The interrogative adjective quel (which, what) agrees in number and gender with the noun it modifies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MASCULINE</th>
<th>FEMININE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singular</td>
<td>quel</td>
<td>quelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plural</td>
<td>quels</td>
<td>quelles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note the following about the interrogative adjective quel:

• The only verb that may separate quel from its noun is être:
  - Quel est votre (ton) nom? What’s your name?
  - Quelle est votre (ton) adresse? What’s your address?

• Quel + être is used at the beginning of the sentence:
  - Quel est votre (ton) numéro de téléphone? What is your phone number?
  - Quelle était la question? What was the question?

• Quel + noun, when used at the beginning of the sentence, may be followed by est-ce que or inversion: Quel bus est-ce qu’on prend?/Quel bus prend-on? (Which bus do we take?)

• Quel + noun may be used at the end of the sentence. This usage is quite colloquial: On prend quel bus? (Which bus shall we take?/We’re taking which bus?)

• Quel may be preceded by a preposition:
  - De quels films parlait-il? About which films was he speaking?
  - Dans quel hôtel restez-vous? In which hotel are you staying?
  - À quelle heure sors-tu? At what time are you going out?

Interrogative Adverbs
Adverbs asking for information help you find out the facts and information you need:
how? comment?
how much, many? combien?
when? quand?
where (to)? où?
from where? d’où?
why? pourquoi?

What’s your name? Comment est-ce que vous vous appelez?

(How do you call yourself?) Comment vous appelez-vous?

Vous vous appelez comment?

Where are you from? D’où est-ce que vous êtes?

D’où êtes-vous?

Vous êtes d’où?

Note what happens in an inverted question when the subject is a noun:

When are the boys coming? Quand est-ce que les garçons viennent?

Quand les garçons viennent-ils?

Les garçons viennent quand?

Variable Interrogative Pronouns
If you were in a store trying to make a decision about which of two or more items to choose, you might want to ask the salesperson which one would be the right choice. The variable interrogative pronouns will help you ask your questions properly:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singular</td>
<td>lequel</td>
<td>laquelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plural</td>
<td>lesquels</td>
<td>lesquelles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interrogative pronouns agree in number and gender with the nouns they replace. They may be used to ask questions with *est-ce que* or inversion:

Which of these films do you prefer? Lequel de ces films est-ce que tu préfères?

Lequel préfères-tu?

Which ones of these dresses are you going to buy? Lesquelles de ces robes est-ce que vous allez acheter?

Lesquelles de ces robes allez-vous acheter?
The prepositions à (to, in) and de (of, from, about) may be used before quel and contract as shown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>à (singular)</td>
<td>auquel</td>
<td>à laquelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>à (plural)</td>
<td>auxquels</td>
<td>auxquelles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de (singular)</td>
<td>duquel</td>
<td>de laquelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de (plural)</td>
<td>desquels</td>
<td>desquelles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Auxquelles de vos amies avez-vous écrit? To which of your friends have you written?
Duquel de ces documents avez-vous besoin? Which one of these documents do you need?

The singular or plural form of the interrogative pronoun is chosen depending upon whether you want to express “which one” or “which ones”:

Lequel prends-tu? Which one are you taking?
Lesquels prends-tu? Which ones are you taking?
À laquelle vas-tu? To which one are you going?
Auxquelles vas-tu? To which ones are you going?
Duquel parle-t-il? About which one is he speaking?
Desquels parle-t-il? About which ones is he speaking?

**Invariable Interrogative Pronouns**

Invariable interrogative pronouns have only one form that does not have to agree with the noun to which it refers. These pronouns will help you form questions about people and things:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>People</th>
<th>Things</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>qui?</td>
<td>qui?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Object</td>
<td>qui?</td>
<td>qui?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Preposition</td>
<td>qui?</td>
<td>qui?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The e of que is dropped before a word beginning with a vowel or vowel sound, but the i of qui is never dropped: Qu’a-t-il cherché? (What did he look for?); Qui a-t-il cherché? (Whom did he look for?)
These invariable interrogative pronouns are used as follows:

- **As subjects (which are followed by verbs),** _qui_ refers to people, and _qu'est-ce qui_ refers to things. Both pronouns are followed by the third person singular of the verb (_il_ form):
  
  Qui est tombé? Who fell?
  
  Qu'est-ce qui est tombé? What fell?

- **As objects of the verb (usually followed by a noun or pronoun),** _qui_ refers to people, and _que_ refers to things. _Qui_ and _que_ may be followed by inversion or by _est-ce que_, or they may be used colloquially at the end of the sentence. In the latter case, _que_ becomes _quoi_:
  
  Whom are you looking for? Qui cherchez-vous?
  
  Qui est-ce que vous cherchez?
  
  Vous cherchez qui?
  
  What are you looking for? Que cherchez-vous?
  
  Qu'est-ce que vous cherchez?
  
  Vous cherchez quoi?

- **With a noun subject, the word order after _que_ is inverted:**
  
  Que cherche Richard? (What is Richard looking for?)

- **A preposition + _qui_ refers to people. A preposition + _quoi_ refers to things. Inversion or _est-ce que_ may be used to form the question, or the preposition + _qui_ or _quoi_ may be used colloquially at the end of the sentence:**
  
  Whom are you thinking about? À qui pensez-vous?
  
  À qui est-ce que vous pensez?
  
  Vous pensez à qui?
  
  What are you thinking about? À quoi pensez-vous?
  
  À quoi est-ce que vous pensez?
  
  Vous pensez à quoi?

Two interrogative expressions that will come in very handy are: _Qu'est-ce que c'est?_ (What is it?) and _Qu'est-ce que c'est que cela?_ (What's that?)
NOTE

With combien, comment, où, d’où, and quand (but not with pourquoi), when the subject is a noun, and the verb has no object, a question may be formed by inverting the order of the subject and verb:

- Comment s’appelle cet homme? What’s that man’s name?
- Combien coûte cette carte? How much does this map cost?

USING IL Y A

The verb avoir is used impersonally to ask and answer questions. The expression il y a can mean “there is (are)” or “is (are) there?” As a question, il y a can be used by itself with appropriate intonation, with est-ce que, or with inversion:

- Is there a restaurant nearby? Il y a un restaurant près d’ici?
  - Est-ce qu’il y a un restaurant près d’ici?
  - Y a-t-il un restaurant près d’ici?

Il y a can also be used to ask a negative question:

- Isn’t there a restaurant nearby? Il n’y a pas de restaurant près d’ici?
  - Est-ce qu’il n’y a pas de restaurant près d’ici?
  - N’y a-t-il pas de restaurant près d’ici?

Use il y a to answer the question: Il y a un restaurant près d’ici. —Il n’y a pas de restaurant près d’ici. (Is there a restaurant near here? —There is not a restaurant near here.)

Il y a is used idiomatically to ask what the problem is: Qu’est-ce qu’il y a? (What’s the matter?)

ASKING FOR DIRECTIONS

You can ask for directions by using the following phrases:

- Where is . . . ? Où est . . . ?: Où se trouve . . . ?
- Where are . . . ? Où sont . . . ?: Où se trouvent . . . ?
- Can you tell me how to get to . . . Pouvez-vous me dire comment aller à . . .
- Where is/are . . . , please? Où est/sont . . . , s’il vous plaît?
Where is the Eiffel Tower?  
Où est la tour Eiffel?  
Où se trouve la tour Eiffel?  
Pouvez-vous me dire comment aller à la tour Eiffel?  
La tour Eiffel, s'il vous plaît.

Where is the baggage claim?  
Où sont les bagages, s'il vous plaît.  
Où se trouvent les bagages?  
Pouvez-vous me dire comment aller aux bagages?

ASKING FOR A PRICE
Being able to ask for prices in a foreign country is always a valuable tool. Use the following phrases when you need to know how much something costs:

What's the price of (a) . . . ?  
Quel est le prix de (d'un[e]) . . .

How much does this/that . . . cost?  
Il/Elle coûte combien ce/cet/ 
cette . . . ?

Combien coûte ce/cet/cette . . . ?

How much do these/those . . . cost?  
Ils/Elles coûtent combien ces . . . ?

Combien coûtent ces . . . ?

NOTE
S'il vous plaît is the polite way to say “please.” To be familiar, use s'il te plaît. Remember that all of the words in the sentence must be either polite or familiar: S'il te plaît, peux-tu me dire comment aller au musée? S'il vous plaît, pouvez-vous me dire comment aller au musée? (Can you please tell me how to get to the museum?)

QUESTIONING NEW ACQUAINTANCES
When you meet someone for the first time, there are many questions you would like to ask to get to know that person better. Here are some of the most common questions that can be used to get information by using the polite or familiar verb forms:
What's your name? Comment vous appelez-vous?
Comment t'appelles-tu?

What is your wife's (child's) name? Comment s'appelle votre (ta) femme/votre (ton) enfant?

Where are you from? Vous êtes d'où/?Tu es d'où?

What is your nationality? Quelle est votre (ta) nationalité?

What is your profession? Quel est votre (ton) métier?

How old are you? Quel âge avez-vous/?Quel âge as-tu?

How many people are in your family? Il y a combien de personnes dans votre (ta) famille?

Where are you staying? Vous restez où/?Tu restes où?

Where do you live? Vous habitez où/?Tu habites où?

What is your address? Quelle est votre adresse?/Quelle est ton adresse?

What is your phone number? Quel est votre numéro de téléphone?/Quel est ton numéro de téléphone?

What is your name and address? Quelles sont vos (tes) coordonnées?

**LACK OF COMMUNICATION**

When you have asked a question and don’t understand the answer or need more information, use the expressions below to help you get the information you need.

- Excuse me. Excusez-moi./Excuse-moi.
- Pardon me. Pardon./Pardonnez-moi./Pardonne-moi.
- I don’t understand. Je ne comprends pas.
- I didn’t hear you. Je ne vous (t’)ai pas entendu.
- Please repeat it. Répétez, s’il vous plaît./Répète, s’il te plaît.
- Speak more slowly. Parlez (Parle) plus lentement.
- What did you say? Qu’est-ce que vous avez dit?
- One more time, please. Encore une fois, je vous (t’)en prie.
- I’m sorry. Je regrette./Je suis désolé(e).
TIME’S UP!

Without looking back, see if you can do the following:

1. Ask a person for his/her name.
2. Ask a person for his/her address.
3. Ask a person for his/her phone number.
4. Ask where a person is from.
5. Ask a person’s age.
6. Ask which train to take.
7. Ask which one of the films someone prefers.
8. Ask a person what the matter is.
10. Say that you are sorry and that you don’t understand.
Answering Questions

MASTER THESE SKILLS

- Answering yes and no
- Using negative expressions
- Answering information questions
- Talking on the phone
- Facing phone problems

In this lesson you’ll learn how to correctly answer the questions people ask you by giving affirmative or negative responses or by providing necessary information. You’ll also learn how to conduct a phone conversation.
ANSWERING YES

There are two ways to answer yes in French:

- Use *oui* to answer an affirmative question or to respond to an affirmative statement:
  
  - Do you like this restaurant? *Vous aimeriez ce restaurant?*
    - Yes, it is very good. *Oui, il est très bon.*
  
  - Is this film great? *Est-ce que ce film est génial?*
    - I think so. *Je pense que oui.*

- Use *si* to contradict a negative question or a negative statement. It is often reinforced with *mais: mais si* (why yes). *Mais* can also be used with *oui* and *non: mais oui, mais non.* For example:
  
  - Don’t you want to go to the park? *Tu ne veux pas aller au parc?*
    - Yes, I’d really like to. *Oui, je veux bien.*

  - You don’t like this book? *Tu n’aimes pas ce livre?*
    - Why yes, it’s a good book. *Mais si, c’est un bon livre.*

ANSWERING NO

In Chapter 17:00 you learned how to use *ne . . . pas* to respond negatively. Other common negatives are listed below. Negative answers may begin with *non* (no).

- hardly, scarcely: *ne . . . guère*
- neither . . . nor: *ne . . . ni . . . ni*
- never: *ne . . . jamais*
- no more, no longer: *ne . . . plus*
- no one, nobody: *ne . . . personne*
- no, none: *ne . . . aucun(e)*
- not at all: *ne . . . pas du tout*
- not: *ne . . . pas*
- not, not at all: *ne . . . point*
- nothing: *ne . . . rien*
In most simple and compound tenses, *ne* precedes the conjugated verb (the helping verb *avoir* or *être* in compound tenses) and any pronouns. The second part of the negative generally follows the conjugated verb (or subject pronoun in inverted questions):

- Il n’est pas du tout content. He is not at all happy.
- Je ne vais jamais fumer. I am never going to smoke.
- Tu ne te lèves plus tard. You no longer wake up late.
- Elle n’a guère étudié. She hardly studied.
- Ne manges-tu rien? Aren’t you eating anything?
- N’as-tu rien acheté? Didn’t you buy anything?
- Ne s’est-il pas rasé? Didn’t he shave?

Note the following exceptions to this rule:

- In compound tenses, *personne* and *nulle part* follow the past participle:
  - Je n’ai vu personne. I didn’t see anyone.
  - Je n’ai trouvé nulle part mes clefs. I didn’t find my keys anywhere.

- *Que* precedes the word or words stressed:
  - Il ne mange qu’un repas. He eats only one meal.
  - Je n’ai acheté qu’un souvenir. I bought only one souvenir.
  - Elle ne va le faire qu’une fois. She’s going to do it only once.

- Each part of the *ni . . . ni* construction precedes the word or words stressed:
  - Je ne mange ni fruits ni légumes. I eat neither fruits nor vegetables.
  - Le repas n’était ni bon ni mauvais. The meal was neither good nor bad.

- When an infinitive is negated, both *ne* and the second element of the negative precede the infinitive, except with *personne* and *nulle part*, which follow it:
Il vaut mieux ne pas parler. It’s better not to speak.
Tu as promis de ne plus être en retard. You promised not to be late anymore.

But:
Elle a préféré ne voir personne. She preferred not to see anyone.
Il vaut mieux n’aller nulle part. It’s better not to go anywhere.

- *Rien* and *personne* may be used as subjects and precede the verb. *Ne* retains its position before the conjugated verb:
  - Rien n’est arrivé. Nothing happened.
  - Personne n’a téléphoné. Nobody called.

- *Ne* is always used with a verb. However, the second part of the negative may be used alone (without *ne*):
  - Qu’est-ce que tu fais? What are you doing?
    —Rien. —Nothing.
  - As-tu déjà fait une croisière? Have you already gone on a cruise?
    —Jamais. —No, never.

- *Ne . . . jamais* used with a verb, and *jamais* used alone without a verb, mean “never.” *Jamais* with a verb and without *ne* means “ever”:
  - Es-tu jamais allé en France? Have you ever been to France?
    —Non, je ne suis jamais allé en France. —No, I’ve never been to France.

When used in a question, the words in the first column produce the negative response indicated in the second column:

- quelqu’un (someone) ne . . . personne (no one)
- quelquefois (sometimes) ne . . . jamais (never)
- quelque chose (something) ne . . . rien (nothing)
- toujours (always) ne . . . jamais (never)
- toujours (still) ne . . . plus (no longer)
Tu cherches quelque chose? Are you looking for something?
Je ne cherche rien. I'm not looking for anything.

NOTE

1. With the negative ne . . . aucun(e), aucun is always used in the singular and agrees with the noun it modifies:
   Cette boutique n’offre aucun rabais. This store doesn’t offer any discounts.
   Je n’ai aucune idée. I don’t have any idea.

2. When used without ne, pas and plus require a modifier:
   Tu es déjà allé en France? Have you already been to France?
   —Pas encore. —No, not yet.
   Plus d’argent pour toi. No more money for you.

NEGATIVE EXPRESSIONS

The following common negative expressions will prove useful in any number of everyday situations:

• Ça ne fait rien. (It doesn’t matter.). Il va être en retard.
  —Ça ne fait rien. (He’s going to be late. —It doesn’t matter.)
• De rien./Il n’y a pas de quoi. (You’re welcome.). Merci de votre gentillesse. —De rien./Il n’y a pas de quoi. (Thank you for your kindness. —You’re welcome.)
• Jamais de la vie! (Never!/Out of the question!/Not on your life!). Aimerais-tu faire de la planche à voile? —Jamais! (Would you like to go windsurfing? —Never!)
• (Ni . . . ) non plus (Not . . . either; Neither; Nor . . . ): Je ne sors pas.
  —Moi non plus. (I’m not going out.—Neither am I.)
• N’en pouvoir plus (to be exhausted): je n’en peux plus.
  (I’m exhausted.)
• N’importe qui/quand/où. (No matter who/when/where.):

  Vous voulez diner où? Where would you like to eat?
  —N’importe où. —It doesn’t matter where./Anywhere.

  Vous voulez partir quand? When would you like to leave?
  —N’importe quand. —Whenever.
Qui peut aller à ce restaurant?  Who can go to this restaurant?
—N’importe qui.  —Anybody.

•  Pas du tout.  (Not at all.)  Ça te dérange?  —Pas du tout.  (Does that bother you?  —Not at all.)
•  Pas encore.  (Not yet.)  Tu veux partir?  —Pas encore.  (Do you want to leave?  —Not yet.)
•  Pas maintenant.  (Not now.)  Voulez-vous manger?  —Pas maintenant.  (Do you want to eat?  —Not now.)

NOTE

In the negative expression n’en pouvoir plus, the verb pouvoir must be conjugated to agree with the subject of the sentence (see Chapter 22:00).
The pronoun en remains before the conjugated verb: il n’en pouvait plus.
(He was exhausted.)

ANSWERING INFORMATION QUESTIONS

Certain key words and phrases will help you answer just about any question that might arise. Note carefully how to present the correct information for which you are being asked.

Answering Questions with Quel and Lequel

Answering questions with the interrogative adjective quel(le)(s) and the interrogative pronoun lequel (laquelle, lesquels, lesquelles) requires that you keep in mind the number and gender of the nouns to which they refer. Note that both words mean “which,” but quel is used as an adjective and lequel is used as a pronoun. To form your answer simply use a definite article + an appropriate adjective (acting as a noun) that agrees in number and gender with the noun referred to and you have a quick, easy answer that expresses “the . . . one(s).” This is usually done with adjectives showing color, size, or nationality.

Tu préfères quels pulls?  Which sweaters do you prefer?
—Les bleus.  —The blue ones.
—Les petits.  —The small ones.
—Les français.  —The French ones.

Laquelle des voitures voulez-vous?  Which of the cars do you want?
—La blanche.  —The white one.
—La grande. —The big one.
—La française. —The French one.

**Answering Questions with Interrogative Adverbs**

Use the following guidelines to answer questions containing interrogative adverbs:

- *Comment* (how) may be answered with the preposition *en* or *à* + a noun, with a noun, or with an explanation:
  
  **How are you going to go to France?** Comment vas-tu aller en France?
  —By plane. —En avion.

  **What’s your name?** Comment vous appelez-vous?
  —Gail. —Gail.

  **How are you?** Comment allez-vous?
  —Very well. —Très bien.

- *Combien* (how much, many) must be answered with a number or a quantity:
  
  **How much does this CD cost?** Combien coûte ce CD?
  —Fifteen euros. —Quinze euros.

  **How much roast beef do you want?** Combien de rosbif voulez-vous?
  —Five hundred grams. —Cinq cents grammes.

- A question with *quand* (when) is answered by giving a time or an expression of time (see Chapter 16:00):
  
  **When do you want to leave?** Quand veux-tu partir?
  —In twenty minutes. —Dans vingt minutes.
  —At eight o’clock. —À huit heures.
  —Immediately. —Tout de suite.

- Answer a question with *où* by naming a place, using the preposition *à* (*au*, *à l’, *à la*, or *aux*) or *en*, or using the pronoun *y* (see Chapter 15:00):
  
  **Where do you live?** Où habitez-vous?
Where are you going? Où vas-tu?
—I’m going to the park./ —Je vais au parc./ J’y vais.
I’m going there.

• Answer d’où (from where) by using the preposition de (du, de l’, de la, des) + place:

  Where are you from? D’où êtes-vous?
  —I’m from Chicago. —Je suis de Chicago.

• Answer a question that asks pourquoi (why) with parce que and a reason. You can use car instead of parce que when linking a statement and a reason:

  Why are you late? Pourquoi êtes-vous en retard?
  —Because I missed my train. —Parce que j’ai raté mon train./ Je suis en retard car j’ai raté mon train.

• Answer a question with qui (who, whom), whether it is used as a subject, direct object, or after a preposition, by naming a person:

  Who is speaking? Qui parle?

  Whom are you looking for? Qui cherchez-vous?
  —A salesperson. —Un vendeur.

  Whom do you want to speak with? Avec qui voulez-vous parler?
  —With Mrs. Dupont. —Avec Mme Dupont.

• Answer qu’est-ce qui, que (qu’est-ce que), and quoi (what) with the name of a thing:

  What fell? Qu’est-ce qui est tombé?
  —My glasses. —Mes lunettes.

  What are you looking for? Que cherchez-vous? / Qu’est-ce que vous cherchez?
  —A pen. —Un stylo.
With what are you writing?  
—With a pencil.  

Avec quoi écrivez-vous?  
—Avec un crayon.

Some answers to the most commonly asked questions should be at your fingertips:

What's your name?  
—My name is . . .  

Quel est votre nom?  
—Mon nom est . . .

What's your address?  
—My address is . . .  

Quelle est votre adresse?  
—Mon adresse est . . .

What's your name and address?  
—My name and address are . . .

Quelles sont vos coordonnées?  
—Mon coordonnées sont . . .

What's your phone number?  
—My phone number is . . .  

Quel est votre numéro de téléphone?  
—Mon numéro de téléphone est le . . .

What's your profession?  
—I am . . .  

Quel est votre métier?  
—Je suis . . .

How old are you?  
—I am . . . years old.  

Quel âge avez-vous?  
—J'ai . . . ans.

Using Prepositions
Remember that when à, de (or any of their forms), or any other preposition is in the question, that preposition must appear in the answer:

Which film are you talking about?  
—Name of film./The comedy.

De quel film parles-tu?  
—De + name of film./Du film comique.

To which of your friends have you written?  
—To Marie and Janine.

Auxquelles de vos amies avez-vous écrit?  
—À Marie et à Janine.

Which one of these documents do you need?  
—My passport.

Duquel de ces documents avez-vous besoin?  
—De mon passeport.
For whom did he work?  
—For his father.

Pour qui a-t-il travaillé?  
—Pour son père.

ON THE PHONE

Having a phone conversation with a person speaking another language is difficult at best. Without the help of body language, communication can be a chore. Use the phrases below to provide and obtain information on the phone:

**Calling**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allô</td>
<td>Hello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Je suis bien chez . . ?</td>
<td>Is this the . . . residence?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C’est . .</td>
<td>It’s . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Name] est là?</td>
<td>Is [Name] there?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Je voudrais parler à . .</td>
<td>I’d like to speak to . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quand sera-t-il (elle) de retour?</td>
<td>When will he (she) be back?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pardon, je ne peux pas vous (t”)entendre.</td>
<td>I’m sorry, I can’t hear you.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Je vais rappeler plus tard.</td>
<td>I’ll call back later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C’est (Ce n’est pas) urgent.</td>
<td>It’s (not) important.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Answering**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allô</td>
<td>Hello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qui est à l’appareil?</td>
<td>Who’s calling?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ici . .</td>
<td>This is . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oui./Non.</td>
<td>Yes./No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ne quittez (quitte) pas.</td>
<td>Hold on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Un moment.</td>
<td>Just a moment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il (Elle) n’est pas là.</td>
<td>He (She) is not in.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Voulez-vous (veux-tu) Do you want to leave a message?
laisser un message?

Un peu plus fort, s’il A little louder, please.
vous (te) plaît.

Allez-y (Vas-y), je vous Go on, I’m listening.
(t’)écoute.

 unarmed is used as a greeting only on the telephone. To greet someone in person,
use bonjour, bonsoir (only in the evening), or salut (to be more casual).

The following words will come in handy if you have to make a phone
call in a French-speaking country:

the phone book l’annuaire (m.)
the yellow pages les pages (f.) jaunes
a phone card une télécarte
a public phone un téléphone public

**PHONE PROBLEMS**

If you’ve made a mistake or if you’re having trouble getting connected or
if there’s trouble on the line, here are the phrases you will need to explain
the problem:

It’s a mistake. I have the wrong number. C’est une erreur. J’ai le
mauvais numéro.

There’s no answer. Ça ne répond pas.

We got cut off (disconnected). On nous a coupés.

The line is busy. La ligne est occupée./
La ligne n’est pas libre.

Please redial the number. Recomposez le numéro,
s’il vous plaît.

The telephone is out of order. Le téléphone est en panne
(hors service).

There’s no dial tone. Il n’y a pas de tonalité.

There’s a lot of static on the line. Il y a beaucoup de parasites
sur la ligne.

If you want to speak to an operator, ask for le (la) standardiste: Le (la)
standardiste, s’il vous plaît.
TIME’S UP!

Without looking in the lesson, see if you can answer these questions:

1. Vous ne voulez pas aller au cinéma ce soir? (say yes)
2. Vous avez envie de dîner dans un restaurant? (say no)
3. Vous fumez?
4. Comment vous appelez-vous?
5. Où habitez-vous?
6. Quel est votre numéro de téléphone?
7. Quel âge avez-vous?
8. Combien coûte un voyage en France?
9. Lequel des films modernes préférez-vous?
10. Qu’est-ce qui est sur votre bureau?
Seeking Help

MASTER THESE SKILLS

• Getting help anywhere
• At the post office
• At the hair salon
• At the dry cleaner’s
• At the optician’s
• At the camera store
• At the jeweler’s
• Getting special services for special needs

In this lesson you’ll learn how to get all the personal services you might need while traveling in a French-speaking country.
GETTING HELP ANYWHERE
Whether you are seeking certain services or are trying to have something repaired, use the phrases below at the post office, the hair salon, the dry cleaner’s, the optician’s, the jeweler’s, or the camera store:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can you help me, please?</td>
<td>Pourriez-vous m’aider, s’il vous plaît?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I need . . .</td>
<td>Il me faut . . . /J’ai besoin de (d’) . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where is the nearest . . ?</td>
<td>Où se trouve le (la) plus proche . . ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post office</td>
<td>le bureau de poste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hairdresser</td>
<td>le salon de coiffure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dry cleaner</td>
<td>la teinturerie/le pressing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>optician</td>
<td>l’opticien (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>camera store</td>
<td>le magasin de photographie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jeweler</td>
<td>la bijouterie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have . . ?</td>
<td>Avez-vous . . ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you sell . . ?</td>
<td>Vendez-vous . . ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At what time do you open?</td>
<td>Vous êtes ouvert à quelle heure?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At what time do you close?</td>
<td>Vous fermez à quelle heure?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What days are you open (closed)?</td>
<td>Vous êtes ouvert (vous fermez) quels jours?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you fix . . ?</td>
<td>Pouvez-vous réparer . . ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you fix it (them) today?</td>
<td>Pouvez-vous le (la, les) réparer aujourd’hui?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you fix it (them) temporarily (while I wait)?</td>
<td>Pouvez-vous le (la, les) réparer provisoirement (pendant que j’attends)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much will that cost?</td>
<td>Ça coûtera combien?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May I have a receipt?</td>
<td>Puis-je avoir un reçu?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AT THE POST OFFICE
If you travel to a foreign country, you will quite likely have to make a stop or two at a post office to purchase stamps or to send packages.
Sending messages to and from foreign countries has been made easier and far less expensive with the use of the Internet and e-mail. International cafés that allow you to send e-mail home are conveniently located in most large cities.

- **address** l’adresse (f.)
- **addressee** le (la) destinataire
- **air letter** l’aérogramme (m.)
- **envelope** l’enveloppe (f.)
- **letter** la lettre
- **mail** le courrier
- **to mail (send)** envoyer
- **package** le paquet
- **post office** la poste/le bureau de poste
- **postage** l’affranchissement (m.)
- **postal code** le code postal
- **postal worker** le facteur/la factrice
- **stamp** le timbre

Special forms, paperwork, and postal rates apply to different types of letters and packages. If you need to send something C.O.D., you will be sending it *payable à l’arrivée* or *contre remboursement*. Use the phrases below to get the type of service you require:

- What is the postal rate . . . Quel est le tarif de
- to the United States? l’affranchissement . . . pour les États-Unis?
- for an airmail letter pour une lettre envoyée par avion
- for a registered letter pour une lettre recommandée
- for a special delivery letter pour une lettre suivie

Use the preposition *par* or *en* to explain how you would like to send a letter or package:

- I would like to send this letter by . . . Je voudrais envoyer cette lettre . . .
regular/air/overnight delivery  par courrier régulier/par avion/ en express

How much do these stamps cost?  Combien coûtent ces timbres?

AT THE HAIR SALON
Men and women alike will have to look for a sign that says salon de coiffure (hairdresser). Un salon de beauté indicates a beauty parlor. To express what you need, say: Je voudrais . . . s’il vous plaît. (I would like . . . please.), using any of the words listed below:

- a coloring  une teinture
- a haircut  une coupe de cheveux
- a manicure  une manicure
- a pedicure  une pédicurie
- a permanent  une permanente
- a shampoo  un shampooing
- a waxing  une épilation à la cire
- highlights  des reflets

To say how you would like your hair, use this phrase: Je voudrais avoir les cheveux . . . (I would like to have my hair . . . ) with the following adjectives:

- long  longs  auburn  auburn
- short  courts  black  noirs
- wavy  frisés  blond  blonds
- curly  bouclés  brune  bruns
- straight  raides, lisses  red  roux

If you do not want certain products to be used, explain your needs as follows:

Ne mettez pas de (d’) . . . s’il vous plaît.  Don’t put on any . . . please.

gel  gel coiffant (m.)
hair spray  laque (f.)
mousse  mousse coiffante (f.)
NOTE

The adjective *auburn* is invariable, which means that it is not necessary to change this adjective to a feminine or plural form. Other adjectives must agree in number and gender with the nouns they describe. Hair is always plural in French: *les cheveux*, except when you are speaking about one single strand: *un cheveu*.

**AT THE DRY CLEANER’S**

Should you have a problem with your clothing, explain what services you need:

Can you please . . . (this/these)?  POUVEZ-VOUS . . . (CE/CET/CETTE/CES)?

(dry) clean  nettoyer (à sec)
fix  réparer
press  repasser
starch  amidonner

Make sure to tell the dry cleaner if there’s a problem:

There is (are) . . .  IL Y A . . .

a hole  un trou
a spot, stain  une tache
a missing  un bouton qui
button  manque
a tear  une déchirure

**NOTE**

The verb *faire* (to make, do) can be used before an infinitive to express that you would like a service performed for you: *Je voudrais faire nettoyer à sec mon costume*. (I would like to have my suit dry-cleaned.)

**AT THE OPTICIAN’S**

For those who depend upon glasses or contact lenses, a ripped lens or a broken pair of glasses can ruin a vacation if proper measures aren’t taken immediately. Optical centers are available in all countries, but it helps to know the proper words, terms, questions, and expressions so that you can have your problem solved as quickly as possible. The following phrases may come in handy:

I have a problem with . . .  J’AI UN PROBLÈME AVEC . . .

my glasses  mes lunettes
my contact lenses  mes verres de contact, mes lentilles
I would like to have these glasses fixed. Je voudrais faire réparer ces lunettes.
The lens (frame) is broken. Le verre (La monture) est cassé(e).
My lens (contact) is torn. Mon verre de contact est déchiré.
Can you replace it? Pouvez-vous le remplacer?

AT THE CAMERA STORE
It is an awful feeling to arrive at your vacation destination or any special event only to realize that you’ve forgotten to take along your camera. Of course, there’s always an easy remedy. Just take a fast trip to a camera store. You can purchase an inexpensive new camera or even one of the convenient “throw-aways” that are so readily available all over. It’s always better to spend more to preserve those precious memories than to go home empty-handed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>camera</td>
<td>un appareil-photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>video camera</td>
<td>un caméscope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll of film</td>
<td>une pellicule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 exposures</td>
<td>de vingt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 exposures</td>
<td>de trente-six</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>black and white</td>
<td>noir et blanc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>color</td>
<td>couleur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Being Impulsive
Perhaps you just can’t wait to get home to see if your pictures turned out all right. Or maybe you met someone on your trip and want to give that person a copy of a picture to be treasured forever as a souvenir of this wonderful vacation. Off you go to the nearest camera shop or drugstore, roll of film in hand. If you want to have your film developed, say: Je voudrais faire développer ce film/cette pellicule (tout de suite). (I would like to have this film developed [immediately].)

NOTE

The French word *une caméra* is used to speak about a television or movie camera. For a snapshot camera, the correct word is *un appareil-photo*. The word for video camera is *un caméscope* and a digital camera is called *un appareil-photo numérique*. *Le film* is the word for film in general. A roll of film is *une pellicule*. (Watch out: *pellicules* in the plural means “dandruff.”)
AT THE JEWELER’S
It’s always best to leave your expensive jewelry home, in a safe place. But if you take something along and need a repair, or if you simply want to treat yourself to something new, use the words below to refer to the specific items you are wearing, that you want repaired, or that you want to buy:

- bracelet le bracelet
- earrings les boucles (f.) d’oreilles
- jewelry les bijoux (m.)
- necklace le collier
- ring la bague
- watch la montre

To find out the price you would ask:

- How much is it? Ça coûte combien?
- What is the price? Quel est le prix?

Sometimes an item of jewelry needs a further description by naming the stones it contains. The names of different jewels that might interest you are listed below:

- diamond un diamant
- ruby un rubis
- emerald une émeraude
- sapphire un saphir

If you are unsure about a stone or want its weight, you would ask:

- What stone is that? Quelle est cette pierre?
- How many carats is it? Combien de carats y a-t-il?

SPECIAL SERVICES AND NEEDS
When there’s a problem, people have special needs, whether it’s obtaining help in finding a lost item or dealing with physical challenges. Refer to these sentences when you need help:

- Please help me. Aidez-moi, s’il vous plaît.
- I need an interpreter. Il me faut un interprète.
- Where is the police station? Où est le poste de police?
Where is the American Embassy?
Où est l’ambassade américaine?

Where is the American Consulate?
Où est le consulat américain?

My child is lost.
Mon enfant s’est égaré(e).

I’ve lost . . .
J’ai perdu . . .

my briefcase ma serviette
my checkbook mon chéquier
my documents mes documents
my money mon argent
my papers mes papiers
my passport mon passeport
my traveler’s checks mes chèques de voyage
my wallet mon portefeuille

Special Needs
For those who are physically challenged, the words below may prove invaluable when used with the question, Où puis-je obtenir . . . ? (Where can I get . . . ?)

a cane une canne
a hearing aid un audiophone
closed-captioned TV le sous-titrage
a walker un déambulateur
crutches des béquilles
a wheelchair un fauteuil roulant

NOTE
These items can be purchased, rented from, or located by organizations dedicated to the needs of people who are physically challenged. There are also many pharmacies (pharmacies) that specialize in the rental of medical appliances—la location d’appareils médicaux.
TIME’S UP!

Ask the following without looking back at the lessons:

1. for help in general
2. what time a store opens
3. for a receipt
4. for the price of a stamp for an airmail letter
5. for a haircut
6. to have a suit dry-cleaned
7. if you can have your contact lens replaced
8. for a roll of 36-exposure film
9. to have your watch fixed
10. for the nearest police station
MASTER THESE SKILLS

- Making suggestions
- Going to the movies and watching television
- Using invariable demonstrative pronouns
- Using direct object nouns and pronouns
- Using indirect object pronouns
- Positioning object pronouns
- Using the subjunctive to express emotions and feelings

In this lesson you’ll learn how to invite someone to participate in leisure activities using direct and indirect object pronouns. You’ll also see how to express positive opinions, feelings, and emotions with and without the subjunctive.
MAKING SUGGESTIONS
Certain key phrases are readily available to you if you’d like to suggest an outing or an activity to someone. These phrases require the use of indirect object pronouns, which will be explained in greater depth later in this chapter. For the phrases that follow, you only need to pay attention to using the correct indirect object form. Note that the formal you form (singular and plural are the same) is presented first, with the familiar you form (singular only) enclosed in parentheses. When you become more comfortable with indirect object pronouns, you may substitute them in any of these sentences. In each case, the conjugated verb must be followed by an infinitive. For now, concentrate on committing these phrases to memory, because they are so useful in a wide variety of situations.

Do(n’t) you want to . . . ?/ Ça (ne) vous (te) dit (pas) de . . . ?
Would(n’t) you like to . . . ?
Are(n’t) you interested in . . . ? Ça (ne) vous (t’)intéresse (pas) de . . . ?
Would(n’t) it please you to . . . ? Ça (ne) vous (te) plairait (pas) de . . . ?
Would you like to go to . . . ? Ça (ne) vous te dit (pas) d’aller à . . . ?
Are you interested in watching television?
Wouldn’t you like to play chess?

LEISURE ACTIVITIES
Leisure activities play an important role in travel and tourism.

ballet le ballet hike la randonnée
beach la plage movies le cinéma
cards les cartes (f.) national park le parc national
checkers les dames (m.) opera l’opéra (m.)
chess les échecs (m. pl.) party la soirée
concert le concert television la télévision
exhibit l’exposition (f.)

The French language designates certain verbs to accompany certain activities. Use the verb regarder to say that you watch la télévision; use jouer aux + cartes, dames, and échecs to say that you play these games; and use aller to say that you go places:
I watch television. Je regarde la télévision.
I play cards. Je joue aux cartes.
I go to the ballet. Je vais au ballet.

To invite someone to go on a picnic, say: *Voulez-vous (Veux-tu) faire un pique-nique?* (Would you like to go on a picnic?)

**GOING TO THE MOVIES AND WATCHING TELEVISION**
The same types of themes (horror, adventure, mystery, comedy, drama, romance) appear in films and on television:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Film Type</th>
<th>French Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adventure</td>
<td>un film d’aventures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comedy</td>
<td>un film comique, une comédie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>documentary</td>
<td>un documentaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drama</td>
<td>un drame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>game show</td>
<td>un jeu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>horror movie</td>
<td>un film d’horreur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>love story</td>
<td>un film d’amour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mystery</td>
<td>un mystère</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>news</td>
<td>les informations (f.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>police story</td>
<td>un film policier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>science fiction</td>
<td>un film de science fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soap opera</td>
<td>un feuilleton (mélodramatique)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spy movie</td>
<td>un film d’espoignage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>talk show</td>
<td>un talk-show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>weather</td>
<td>la météo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>western</td>
<td>un western</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INVARIALE DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS
(CECI, CELA, CE, AND ÇA)

Ceci and cela stand for this (the nearest object) and that (the farthest object), respectively. Very often, however, this distinction is not strictly observed, and the French tend to use cela for both this and that unless they are making a contrast. Ce is a neuter pronoun. Ça (the abbreviation for cela) is used in informal communication and stands for both this and that, as well as it. Ça is usually avoided before verbs that begin with a vowel to eliminate the clash of vowel sounds.

Here is how you use invariable demonstrative pronouns:

- Ceci and cela are used as subjects or objects of any verb except être:
  Ça ne fait rien. It doesn’t matter.
  Ne prends pas ceci; prends cela. Don’t take this; take that.

- The neuter demonstrative ce (this, that, it) is often used as the subject of être when être is followed by an adjective, an adverb, or a prepositional phrase:
  C’est compliqué. It’s confusing.
  C’est assez. That’s enough.
  Ce n’est pas à moi. It’s not mine.

- Ceci and cela must be used with être when this and that are contrasted, when the pronoun is separated from the verb by any word other than ne, and for emphasis:
  Ceci est difficile; cela ne l’est pas. This is difficult; that isn’t.
  Cela aussi est important. That is also important.
  Ceci est trop difficile. This is too difficult.

OBJECT PRONOUNS

Object pronouns are used so that an object noun doesn’t have to be continuously repeated. This allows for a more free-flowing conversational tone. Object pronouns are classified as either direct or indirect.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS</th>
<th>INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me (m’)</td>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>te (t’)</td>
<td>you (familiar)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The forms me, te, se, nous, and vous are both direct and indirect object pronouns. They are also reflexive pronouns (see Chapter 18:00).

Il me parle. He speaks to me.
Il se parle. He speaks to himself.
Nous vous réveillons. We wake you up.
Nous nous réveillons. We awaken.

**Direct Object Pronouns**
Direct objects (which can be nouns or pronouns) answer the question of whom or what the subject is acting upon and may refer to people, places, things, or ideas. A direct object pronoun replaces a direct object noun.

Tu regardes le film. You watch the movie.
Tu le regardes. You watch it.
Je mets la lotion solaire. I put on the suntan lotion.
Je la mets. I put it on.
Il achète les lunettes de soleil. He buys the sunglasses.
Il les achète. He buys them.
Je t’aime. I love you.
Tu m’aimes. You love me.
Vous nous voyez. You see us.
Nous vous voyons. We see you.

When using object pronouns, make sure that your conjugated verb agrees with the subject and not the object pronoun.

**Indirect Object Pronouns**
Indirect objects (which can be nouns or pronouns) answer the question to or for whom the subject is doing something. Indirect objects only refer
to people. An indirect object pronoun replaces an indirect object noun. A key to the correct usage of an indirect object pronoun is the preposition à (au, à l’, à la, or aux) followed by a name or reference to a person:

Elle écrit à Jean. She writes to John.
Elle lui écrit. She writes to him.
Il parle à la fille. He speaks to the girl.
Il lui parle. He speaks to her.
Tu m’achètes un cadeau. You buy a gift for me.
Je t’achète un cadeau. I buy a gift for you.

Some French constructions with direct and indirect object pronouns differ from the English:

- Verbs that take an indirect object in English do not necessarily take an indirect object in French. The following verbs take direct objects in French:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French Verb</th>
<th>English Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>attendre</td>
<td>to wait for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chercher</td>
<td>to look for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>écouter</td>
<td>to listen to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>espérer</td>
<td>to hope for (to)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>faire venir</td>
<td>to call for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>payer</td>
<td>to pay for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>regarder</td>
<td>to look at</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Je regarde la fille./Je la regarde. I look at the girl./I look at her.

- Some verbs that require a direct object in English do not necessarily take a direct object in French. These verbs take an indirect object in French because to or for is implied or because the verb is followed by à:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French Verb</th>
<th>English Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>convenir (à)</td>
<td>to suit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>désobéir (à)</td>
<td>to disobey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>faire honte (à)</td>
<td>to shame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>faire mal (à)</td>
<td>to hurt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>faire peur (à)</td>
<td>to frighten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>obéir (à)</td>
<td>to obey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plaire (à)</td>
<td>to please</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>répondre (à)</td>
<td>to answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ressembler (à)</td>
<td>to resemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>téléphoner (à)</td>
<td>to call</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Il obéit à ses parents. He obeys his parents.
Il leur obéit. He obeys them.
• With the French verb *plaire* (to please), the French indirect object is the subject in the English sentence: *Ce cadeau me plaît.* (I like this gift./This gift is pleasing to me.)

• With the French verbs *faillir* (to be necessary) and *manquer* (to miss), the French indirect object is also the subject of the English sentence:
  
  
  Il me faut un stylo.  I need a pen./A pen is needed by me.
  Tu me manques.  I miss you./You are missed by me.

• Some verbs require the indirect object + *à* or *de* + an infinitive:

  - apprendre à quelqu’un *à* + infinitive  to teach someone to
  - enseigner à quelqu’un *à* + infinitive  to teach someone to
  - conseiller à quelqu’un *de* + infinitive  to advise someone to
  - défendre à quelqu’un *de* + infinitive  to forbid someone to
  - demander à quelqu’un *de* + infinitive  to ask someone to
  - ordonner à quelqu’un *de* + infinitive  to order someone to
  - pardonner à quelqu’un *de* + infinitive  to forgive someone for
  - permettre à quelqu’un *de* + infinitive  to permit someone to
  - promettre à quelqu’un *de* + infinitive  to promise someone to
  - rappeler à quelqu’un *de* + infinitive  to remind someone to
  - reprocher à quelqu’un *de* + infinitive  to reproach someone for

  Elle apprend aux élèves *à* parler français.  She teaches the students to speak French.
  Elle leur apprend *à* parler français.  She teaches them to speak French.
  Elle conseille à Jacques *d*’étudier.  She advises Jack to study.
  Elle lui conseille *d*’étudier.  She advises him to study.
  Il m’a demandé de l’aider.  He asked me to help him.
  Elle lui défend de parler.  She forbids him to speak.
Position of Object Pronouns
The rules for the placement of pronouns are the same for all pronouns:

- Object pronouns, direct or indirect, including reflexive pronouns, in simple and compound tenses, are placed before the verb to which their meaning is tied (usually the conjugated verb). When there are two verbs, the object pronoun is generally placed before the infinitive:
  
  Je le prends.  
  Je ne le prends pas.  
  Je vais le prendre.  
  Je ne vais pas le prendre.  
  Ne le prends pas!  
  Je l’aurais pris.  

- In an affirmative command only, the object pronoun follows the verb and is attached to it with a hyphen. The pronouns me and te change to moi and toi, respectively, after the verb:
  
  Prends-le!  
  Regarde-moi.  
  Lève-toi.  

- Object pronouns precede voici (here is) and voilà (there are): Le voici. Te voilà.

Agreement of the Past Participle
In compound tenses where avoir is the helping verb past participles agree in gender and number with a preceding direct object noun or pronoun only:

- Agreement with a preceding direct object:
  
  Ta soeur? Je l’ai vue.  
  Elles se sont maquillées.  
  Ses papiers? Je les ai trouvés.  
  La voiture qu’il a achetée est très sportive.  
  Your sister? I saw her.  
  They put on makeup.  
  His papers? I found them.  
  The car he bought is very sporty.
No agreement with a preceding indirect object:

- Ta soeur? Je lui ai parlé. Your sister? I spoke to her.
- Elles se sont lavé la figure. They washed their faces.
- Ses parents? Il leur a obéi. His parents? He obeyed them.

Double Object Pronouns
More than one pronoun may be used in a sentence at a time. The order of pronouns before the verb is shown below:

Order of Double Object Pronouns Before the Verb

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>me</th>
<th>te</th>
<th>se</th>
<th>le (l’)</th>
<th>lui</th>
<th>y</th>
<th>en</th>
<th>+ verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nous</td>
<td>la (l’)</td>
<td>leur</td>
<td>vous</td>
<td>les</td>
<td>se</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The order of pronouns after the verb (in affirmative commands only) is as follows:

Order of Double Object Pronouns After the Verb

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-moi</th>
<th>-toi</th>
<th>-le</th>
<th>-lui</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>verb +</td>
<td>-la</td>
<td>-nous</td>
<td>-y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-les</td>
<td>-vous</td>
<td>-leur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Il me la montre. He shows it to me.
Vas-tu me l’envoyer? Are you going to send it to me?
Je le leur ai écrit. I wrote it to them.
Donnez-le-moi, s’il vous plaît. Give it to me, please.
Envoyez-les-nous tout de suite. Send them to us immediately.
NOTE

*Moi + en and *toi + en become *m’en* and *t’en*, respectively:

- Donne-m’en, s’il te plaît. Please give me some.
- Va t’en. Go away.

Verbs of Perception

An object pronoun precedes verbs of perception because the pronoun is the object of that verb. Common verbs of perception are *écouter* (to listen to), *entendre* (to hear), *regarder* (to look at), *sentir* (to feel, smell), *voir* (to see), *faire* (to make, do), and *laisser* (to allow). Note that with verbs of perception, the object pronoun is placed before the conjugated verb, not the infinitive: *Il entend les enfants crier.*/*Il les entend crier.* (He hears the children scream./He hears them scream.)

POSITIVE FEELINGS

An invitation can be extended using a direct object pronoun: *Vous voulez* (*Tu veux*) *m’* (*nous*) *accompagner?* (Do you want to accompany me [us]?) To accept with a positive attitude, use *oui* and one of the following phrases:

- And how! Et comment!
- Gladly! Volontiers!
- Great! Chouette!
- I adore . . . J’adore . . .
- I like . . . J’aime . . .
- I’m a fan of . . . Je suis fana de . . .
- Of course. Bien entendu./Bien sûr.
- OK. D’accord.
- That interests me. Ça m’intéresse.
- That would please me. Ça me plairait.
- What a good idea. Quelle bonne idée.
- Why not? Pourquoi pas?
- With pleasure. Avec plaisir.
USING THE SUBJUNCTIVE TO EXPRESS EMOTIONS AND FEELINGS
The subjunctive is used after verbs and expressions of feeling and emotion, such as fear, joy, sorrow, and surprise. Use the following formula and the adjectives below to express your feelings to someone else: subject pronoun + être (conjugated) + adjective + que + dependent clause.

- angry: fâché(e)
- annoyed: agacé(e)
- astonished: étonné(e)
- bothered: ennuyé(e)
- content: content(e)
- delighted: enchanté(e)
- displeased: mécontent(e)
- embarrassed: gêné(e)
- flattered: flatté(e)
- furious: furieux (furieuse)
- happy: heureux (heureuse)
- irritated: irrité(e)
- sad: triste
- sorry: désolé(e)
- surprised: surpris(e)
- unhappy: malheureux (malheureuse)

She is happy that you accept her invitation. Elle est heureuse que vous acceptiez son invitation.

I’m sorry that they aren’t coming. Je suis triste qu’ils ne viennent pas.

Conjugate avoir with the nouns peur (fear) and honte (shame) to express feelings and emotions: j’ai honte qu’il refuse d’y aller. (I’m ashamed that he refuses to go there.)
**Note**

Expressions of fear in affirmative sentences generally take *ne* with the subjunctive. *Ne* has no meaning in English: *Nous avons peur que vous ne vous fâchiez.* (We're afraid that you will get angry.)

The reflexive verbs *s’étonner* (to be astonished) and *se réjouir* (to rejoice, be happy) may be conjugated and used with the subjunctive: *Je me réjouis que tu fasses un voyage en France.* (I am happy that you are taking a trip to France.)

**Penser, Croire, and Espérer**

*Penser* (to think), *croire* (to believe), and *espérer* (to hope) are followed by the indicative when used affirmatively (because they express certainty) and by the subjunctive when used negatively or interrogatively (because they express doubt and uncertainty):

- *J’espère que tu pourras me payer.* I hope you can pay me.
- *Je ne pense pas que tu puisses me payer.* I don’t think you can pay me.
- *Penses-tu qu’il puisse me payer?* Do you think he can pay me?

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**Time’s Up!**

After carefully studying the chapter, see if you can do the following:

1. Say that you need checkers.
2. Say that you play cards.
3. Ask what kind of film is playing.
4. Say you’d like to see a comedy.
5. Invite someone to have a picnic in the country.
7. Say that you like the gifts.
8. Say: “I miss you.”
9. Say: “Show it to me, please.”
10. Express a positive feeling about a play you saw.
Planning Outdoor Activities

MASTER THESE SKILLS

- Engaging in sports
- Playing the game
- Describing the weather
- Expressing negative opinions and indifference
- Using the subjunctive with expressions of doubt and after impersonal expressions

In this lesson you'll learn how to talk about sports and the weather. You'll also learn how to express your dissatisfaction or indifference toward different activities by using the subjunctive and relative pronouns.
SPORTS
Sports are popular around the world, and people have taken an ever-increasing interest in physical fitness to maintain their youth and health:

- baseball  le base-ball
- basketball le basket-ball
- cycling  le cyclisme
- football le football américain
- golf le golf
- jogging le footing, le jogging
- skating le patinage
- skiing le ski
- soccer le football
- swimming la natation
- tennis le tennis

Engaging in Sports
Many ways to extend invitations have been presented in previous lessons (see Chapters 17:00 and 10:00). When speaking about sports, one might ask:

How about a game of . . . ?
On fait une partie de . . . ?/
On fait une partie de tennis?

How about a match of . . . ?
On fait un match de . . . ?/
On fait un match defootball?

To ask if someone engages in a sport, you can do one of the following:

- Use the verb jouer (to play) + à + definite article + sport:
  
  Vous jouez au tennis? Do you (formal) play tennis?
  Tu joues au basket-ball? Do you (familiar) play basketball?

- Use the verb faire (to make, do) + de + definite article + sport:
  
  Vous faites de la natation? Do you (formal) swim?
  Tu fais du football? Do you (familiar) play soccer?
Once you’ve determined the sport in which you want to engage, refer to the list below to select the appropriate playing field:

Shall we go to the . . . ?  On va (à l’, au, à la) . . . ?
Let’s go to the . . .  Allons (à l’, au, à la) . . .

beach  la plage  ocean  l’océan (m.)
course (golf)  le parcours  park  le parc
court  le court  pool  la piscine
gym  le gym  sea  la mer
mountain  la montagne  slope  la piste

It’s also important to make sure that you have the appropriate and necessary equipment as listed below. Use these phrases to get you started:

I need . . .  Il me faut . . . /J’ai besoin de . . .
Could you lend (rent) me . . .  Pourriez-vous me prêter (louer) . . .

a ball (football, soccer)  un ballon
a ball (baseball, tennis)  une balle
a bat  une batte
a bicycle  un vélo, une bicyclette
boots (ski)  des chaussures de ski (f.)
goggles  des lunettes protectrices (f.)
golf clubs  des clubs de golf (m.)
a racket  une raquette
skates  des patins (m.)
skis  des skis (m.)

THE WEATHER
In order to participate in any sport or outdoor activity, favorable weather conditions should prevail. To help you determine if la météo (the forecast) is encouraging, say: Quel temps fait-il? (What’s the weather?)

The third person singular of the verb faire (to make, do) is used to express “is” in many weather conditions: Il fait froid. (It is cold.)
It's beautiful. Il fait beau.
It's hot. Il fait chaud.
It's sunny. Il fait du soleil.
It's nasty/It's bad. Il fait mauvais.
It's cold. Il fait froid.
It's cool. Il fait frais.
It's windy. Il fait du vent.
It's thundering. Il fait du tonnerre.
It's foggy. Il fait du brouillard.
It's humid. Il fait humide./Il y a de l'humidité.
It's cloudy. Il y a des nuages./Le ciel est nuageux.
It's raining. Il pleut.
It's snowing. Il neige.

**What's the Temperature?**
If you want to know the temperature, keep in mind that in Europe the Centigrade (Celsius) thermometer is used. To convert Fahrenheit to Centigrade, subtract 32 from the Fahrenheit temperature, then multiply that number by ⁵⁄₉. This will give you the temperature in degrees Centigrade. To convert Centigrade to Fahrenheit, multiply the Centigrade temperature by ⁹⁄₅, then add 32. This will give you the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

The following are some questions and answers you will need to express the temperature:

What's the temperature? Quelle est la température?/
Quelle température fait-il?

It's five below. Il fait moins cinq.
It's zero. Il fait zéro.
It's seventy degrees. Il fait soixante-dix degrés.

**NOTE**
Use *faire* to express weather conditions: *Il fait chaud.* (It's hot.)
Use *avoir* to express physical conditions of a person: *Il a chaud.* (He is hot.)
EXPRESSING NEGATIVE OPINIONS

An invitation, whether made in the affirmative or negative, can elicit a negative response. To give a negative response or opinion about an activity or thing, use *non* and one of the following phrases:

- I hate . . . Je déteste . . .
- I don’t like . . . Je n’aime pas . . .
- I’m not a fan of . . . Je ne suis pas fana de . . .
- I’m sorry, but . . . Je regrette, mais . . .
- It’s a bad movie C’est un navet.
  (or book).
- It’s phony. C’est du bidon.
- It’s the same old thing. C’est toujours la même chose.
- It’s too difficult. C’est trop difficile.
- It’s too tiring. C’est trop fatigant.
- It’s too violent. C’est trop violent.
- That doesn’t interest me. Ça ne m’intéresse pas.
- I wouldn’t like that. Ça ne me plairait pas.
- What a bad idea. Quelle mauvaise idée.
- Why? Pourquoi?
- You’ve got to be kidding! Vous parlez!/Tu parles!

EXPRESSING INDIFFERENCE

If you’ve been invited out and are indifferent or indecisive about whether to go or not, use the expressions below:

- I don’t care. Je n’ai pas de préférence.
- I doubt it. J’en doute.
- I really don’t know. Je ne sais pas trop.
- It depends. Ça dépend.
- It depends on you. Ça dépend de vous (toi).
- It doesn’t matter. Ça m’est égal.
Perhaps./Maybe. Peut-être.
Whatever you want. Ce que vous préférez (tu préfères)./Comme vous voulez (tu veux).

**THE SUBJUNCTIVE WITH EXPRESSIONS OF DOUBT**

The subjunctive is used after verbs and expressions of doubt, denial, disbelief, and probability. The indicative (simple and compound tenses) is used after verbs and expressions of certainty. When certain verbs and expressions are used in the negative or the interrogative, they imply uncertainty or doubt and the subjunctive is required as shown below. (Note that all of these expressions are followed by *que* and another clause.)

When doubt is negated, certainty or probability exists and the indicative is used.

### The Indicative Versus the Subjunctive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATIVE (CERTAINTY)</th>
<th>SUBJUNCTIVE (UNCERTAINTY)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>je sais I know</td>
<td>je doute I doubt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>je ne sais pas I don’t know</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>je suis sûr(e) I’m sure</td>
<td>je ne suis sûr(e) I’m not sure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>je suis certain(e) I’m certain</td>
<td>je ne suis certain(e) I’m not certain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est certain it’s certain</td>
<td>il n’est pas certain it’s not certain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est clair it’s clear</td>
<td>il n’est pas clair it’s not clear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est évident it’s evident</td>
<td>il n’est pas évident it’s not evident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est exact it’s exact</td>
<td>il n’est pas exact it’s not exact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il paraît it appears</td>
<td>il semble it seems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est vrai it’s true</td>
<td>il n’est pas vrai it’s not true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est sûr it’s sure</td>
<td>il n’est pas sûr it’s not sure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
il est probable  it’s probable  il est possible  it’s possible
il est improbable it’s improbable  il est impossible  it’s impossible
il se peut  it is possible  il est impossible  it’s impossible
Je ne doute pas qu’il nous accompagnera.
Il sait que tuiras au match.

But:
Il doute que tu ailles au match.

THE SUBJUNCTIVE AFTER IMPERSONAL EXPRESSIONS
The subjunctive is also used after the following impersonal expressions that show doubt, emotion, or opinion. These expressions can be used to express either positive or negative feelings and can also be used to persuade someone to follow a course of action.

it is amazing  il est étonnant  it is natural  il est naturel
it is absurd  il est absurde  it is nice  il est bien
it is amusing  il est amusant  it is normal  il est normal
it is curious  il est curieux  it is a pity  il est dommage
it is doubtful  il est douteux  it is regrettable  il est regrettable
it is enough  il suffit  it is strange  il est étrange
it is fair  il est juste  it is surprising  il est surprenant
it is good  il est bon  it is unfair  il est injuste
it is interesting  il est intéressant

It is good that you will accompany us.  Il est bon que vous nous accompagniez.
It is natural that he wants to go out.  Il est naturel qu’il veuille sortir.

For most impersonal expressions, c’est may be used in place of il est: C’est surprenant que vous refusiez toujours nos invitations. (It’s surprising that you always refuse our invitations.)
THE SUBJUNCTIVE AFTER VERBS OF OPINION OR KNOWLEDGE

After verbs of opinion or knowledge—penser (to think); croire (to believe); espérer (to hope); affirmer (to affirm); assurer (to assure); estimer (to esteem); and remarquer (to notice)—the indicative or the subjunctive is used depending upon the meaning the speaker wishes to convey, or on his or her attitude toward the statement conveyed in the clause.

Generally, when used in the affirmative, these verbs require the indicative because they show belief, conviction, or knowledge on the part of the speaker: Vous croyez qu’il dira oui. (You believe that he will say yes.) When used negatively or interrogatively, these verbs generally take the subjunctive. The speaker, however, may use either the indicative or the subjunctive depending upon the intended meaning:

Croyez-vous qu’il dira oui? Do you believe that he will say yes?
(The speaker has no doubt that he will say yes.)

Croyez-vous qu’il dise oui? Do you believe that he will say yes?
(The speaker doubts that he will say yes.)

TIME’S UP!

After you’ve studied the contents of this chapter and have it mastered, see if you can do the following without looking back:

1. Invite someone to go swimming.
2. Ask someone if he/she plays golf.
3. Suggest that someone go with you to the pool.
4. Say you need skates.
5. Ask someone to lend you a bicycle.
6. Ask someone for today’s weather.
7. Give a simplified version of today’s weather forecast in French. Include the temperature.
8. Say that you don’t like to play tennis because it’s too tiring.
9. Say that you doubt that your friend will play basketball.
10. Say that you think the weather will be nice.
MASTER THESE SKILLS

- Making comparisons of inequality
- Comparing adjectives
- Comparing adverbs
- Comparing nouns
- Comparisons of equality

In this lesson you’ll learn how to make comparisons of inequality using adjectives, adverbs, and nouns. You’ll also learn how to use these words to make statements showing equality.
ANIMALS
Animals are compared all the time for their prowess, size, speed, intelligence, and good and bad traits. Some common animals are:

- bird (l’oiseau (m.)
- cat (le chat)
- cheetah (le guépard)
- cow (la vache)
- dog (le chien)
- donkey (l’âne)
- elephant (l’éléphant (m.)
- fish (le poisson)
- fox (le renard)
- giraffe (la girafe)
- horse (le cheval)
- leopard (le léopard)
- lion (le lion)
- monkey (le singe)
- rabbit (le lapin)
- tiger (le tigre)
- turtle (la tortue)

IN THE CLASSROOM
In a classroom setting, students are constantly comparing grades, teachers, classes, class requirements, and homework assignments. Teachers have a habit of comparing their students. The following list will give you the vocabulary you need to make classroom comparisons:

- answer (la réponse)
- backpack (le sac à dos)
- bell (la cloche)
- board (le tableau)
- book (le livre)
- calculator (la calculette, la calculatrice)
- chalk (la craie)
- class (la classe)
- desk (le bureau)
- dictionary (le dictionnaire)
- grade (la note)
- grammar (la grammaire)
- homework (les devoirs (m.))
- lesson (la leçon)
- pen (le stylo)
- pencil (le crayon)
- principal (le directeur)
- pupil (l’élève (m. or f.))
- question (la question)
- ruler (la règle)
- school (l’école (f.))
- student (l’étudiant(e))
- subject (la matière)
- teacher (le professeur)
- test (l’examen (m.))
- textbook (le manuel)
NOTE

1. There is a distinction between le cours, which has more of a connotation of “lesson” or “class,” and la matière, which refers to the discipline: Il donne des cours de français. (He gives French lessons.) Le français est une matière facile. (French is an easy subject.)

2. The word for “teacher” is always le professeur, no matter the gender of the person doing the instruction. Le maître/la maîtresse and l’instituteur/l’institutrice refer to elementary school teachers.

By the end of this chapter you will be able to compare the subjects listed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>French Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>art</td>
<td>l’art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>biology</td>
<td>la biologie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chemistry</td>
<td>la chimie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>computer science</td>
<td>l’informatique (f.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>l’anglais (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>le français</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>geography</td>
<td>la géographie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>history</td>
<td>l’histoire (f.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mathematics</td>
<td>les mathématiques (f.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>music</td>
<td>la musique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>physics</td>
<td>la physique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>science</td>
<td>la science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMPARISONS OF INEQUALITY

Comparisons of inequality show that two things are not equal. These comparisons have three forms:

- The positive states the fact:
  - Adjective: French is easy.
  - Adverb: A tiger runs quickly.
  - Noun: I make mistakes.

- The comparative states more or less:
  - Adjective: French is easier than math. Math is harder than history.
Adverb: A tiger runs more quickly than a turtle. A tiger runs less quickly than a cheetah.

Noun: I make more mistakes than Bob. I make fewer mistakes than Nancy.

* The superlative states the most or the least:
  Adjective: French is the easiest. Math is the hardest.
  Adverb: A turtle runs the slowest. A cheetah runs the fastest.
  Noun: Nancy makes the most mistakes. Bob makes the fewest mistakes.

Most comparatives in English end in -er or use the words less or more. Most superlatives in English end in -est or use the words least or most.

Le tigre est grand. The tiger is big.
Le cheval est plus grand. The horse is bigger.
L’éléphant est le plus grand. The elephant is the biggest.

**Comparison of Adjectives**
Adjectives are compared in French according to the following guidelines. Note that the adjective must agree in gender and number with the subject of the sentence.

* Positive: intéressant (interesting): Le français est intéressant. (French is interesting.)
* Comparative: moins/plus intéressant (less/more interesting):
  Les maths sont moins intéressantes que le français. Math is less interesting than French.
  Le français est plus intéressant que les maths. French is more interesting than math.

* Superlative: le (les) moins/plus intéressant(e)(s) (the least/most interesting):
  La physique est la matière la moins intéressante. Physics is the least interesting subject.
  Le français est le cours le plus intéressant. French is the most interesting class.
To correctly form the comparative and superlative of adjectives, take note of the following rules:

- In the comparative, adjectives can be used to compare two or more things in one sentence by introducing a second element with *que* (than):

  - Le français est plus intéressant que l’histoire. (French is more interesting than history.)
  - Le tigre est moins grand que l’éléphant. (The tiger is smaller (less big) than the elephant.)

- The second element of the comparison may be a noun, a stress pronoun, a possessive pronoun, an adjective, an adverb, or a clause:

  **Noun:** La biologie est plus facile que la physique. (Biology is easier than physics.)
  **Stress Pronoun:** Elle est plus petite que moi. (She is shorter than I.)
  **Possessive Pronoun:** Son chien est plus grand que le mien. (His dog is bigger than mine.)
  **Adjective:** Ils sont plus doués qu’intelligents. (They are more gifted than intelligent.)
  **Adverb:** Il a étudié plus qu’avant. (He studied more than before.)
  **Clause:** Elles sont plus importantes que je ne le pensais. (They are more important than I thought.)

- Comparative and superlative adjectives agree in number and gender with the nouns they modify:

  - Une vache est moins féroce qu’un tigre. (A cow is less ferocious than a tiger.)
  - La biologie est plus intéressante que la chimie. (Biology is more interesting than chemistry.)
  - Les professeurs sont plus calmes que les élèves. (Teachers are quieter (more quiet) than students.)

- To express “in” or “of” in a superlative sentence, use the preposition *de* + definite article: La girafe est le plus grand animal du monde. (The giraffe is the tallest animal in the world.)
• In a superlative sentence, when the adjective follows the noun, the article is repeated: *Le guépard est l'animal le plus rapide.* (The cheetah is the fastest animal.)

• In a superlative sentence, adjectives that precede the noun in French may retain that position: *Le cheval est le plus bel animal.* (The horse is the most beautiful animal.)

The following table shows a few adjectives that have irregular comparatives and superlatives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSITIVE</th>
<th>COMPARATIVE</th>
<th>SUPERLATIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bon(ne)(s)</td>
<td>meilleur(e)(s)</td>
<td>le/la/les meilleur(e)(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mauvais(e)(s)</td>
<td>plus mauvais(e)(s)</td>
<td>le/la/les plus mauvais(e)(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>petit(e)(s)</td>
<td>moindre(s)</td>
<td>le/la/les moindre(s)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Le chien est le meilleur ami de l'homme. A dog is man's best friend.
Ses notes sont pires que les miennes. His grades are worse than mine.
Mon chat peut entendre le moindre bruit. My cat can hear the slightest noise.

*NOTE*

*Petite* is the positive form for “small,” whether referring to size or importance. Note that when *petite* refers to size it is regular: the comparative form is *plus petit(e)(s)* (smaller) and the superlative form is *le/la/les plus petit(e)(s)* (the smallest). However, *moindre*, which refers to importance, is irregular, as shown in the table above.

The antonyms (opposites) listed below should help you when making comparisons using adjectives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>absent</td>
<td>absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ancien</td>
<td>old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>present</td>
<td>present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nouveau</td>
<td>new</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comparison of Adverbs

Adverbs are compared in the following ways.

- **Positive:** *rapidement* (rapidly, quickly): *Les chiens courent rapidement.* (Dogs run quickly.)

- **Comparative:** *moins rapidement* (less quickly), *plus rapidement* (more quickly):
  
  - *Les chiens courent moins rapidement que les chevaux.* Dogs run less quickly than horses.
  
  - *Les guépards courent plus rapidement que les chevaux.* Cheetahs run more quickly than horses.

- **Superlative:** *le moins rapidement* (the least quickly), *le plus rapidement* (the most quickly):
  
  - *Les chiens courent le moins rapidement.* Dogs run the slowest.
  
  - *Les guépards courent le plus rapidement.* Cheetahs run the fastest.

Because adverbs modify verbs and therefore require no agreement, *le* is always the article with the superlative adverb:
Mon chien court le moins rapidement.
Ces girafes marchent le plus rapidement.

In order to form the comparative and superlative of adverbs correctly, take note of the following rules:

• In the comparative, adverbs can be used to compare two or more things in one sentence by introducing a second element with *que* (than):

  Les chiens courent moins vite que les chevaux.
  Les guépards courent plus vite que les chiens.

• The second element of the comparison may be a noun, a stress pronoun, a possessive pronoun, an adverb, or a clause:

  Noun: *Les chats jouent plus calmement que les lions.*
  (Cats play more quietly than lions.)

  Stress Pronoun: *Elle parle plus vite que moi.*
  (She speaks more quickly than I.)

  Possessive Pronoun: *Son chien court plus vite que le mien.*
  (Her dog runs faster than mine.)

  Adverb: *Il travaille plus vite que sérieusement.*
  (He is working more quickly than seriously.)

  Clause: *Les guépards courent plus vite que je ne le pensais.*
  (Cheetahs run faster than I thought.)

• To express “in” or “of” in a superlative sentence, use the preposition *de* + definite article:

  Les guépards courent le plus vite de tous les animaux.

A few adverbs have irregular comparatives and superlatives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSITIVE</th>
<th>COMPARATIVE</th>
<th>SUPERLATIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bien (well)</td>
<td>mieux (better)</td>
<td>le mieux ([the] best)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mal (badly)</td>
<td>plus mal (worse)</td>
<td>le plus mal ([the] worst)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comparison of Nouns
Nouns are compared in the same way as adjectives and adverbs:

- Positive: peu de (few, little), beaucoup de (many, much): Les élèves ont beaucoup de devoirs. (The students have a lot of work.)
- Comparative: moins de (fewer than), plus de (more than):
  
  J'ai moins de matières que toi. I have fewer subjects than you.
  
  Un chien mange plus de viande que de légumes. A dog eats more meat than vegetables.

- Superlative: le moins de (the least), le plus de (the most):
  
  Elle fait le moins de travail de la classe. She does the least work in the class.
  
  Tu fais le plus de fautes de tous les élèves. You make the most mistakes of all the students.

In order to form the comparative and superlative of nouns correctly, take note of the following rules:

- In the comparative, nouns can be used to compare two or more things in one sentence by introducing a second element with que (than):
  
  J'ai moins de devoirs que toi. I have less homework than you.
  
  Tu as plus de travail que moi. You have more work than I.
The second element of the comparison may be a noun, a stress pronoun, a possessive pronoun, or a clause:

Noun: *J'ai plus de bonnes notes que ces élèves.*
(I have more good grades than those students.)

Stress Pronoun: *Il a plus de livres que moi.*
(He has more books than I.)

Possessive Pronoun: *Ma classe a plus d'élèves que la tienne.*
(My class has more students than yours.)

Clause: *Une girafe mange plus d’herbe que je ne le pensais.*
(A giraffe eats more grass than I thought.)

* To express “in” or “of” in a superlative sentence, use the preposition *de* + definite article: *Il fait le plus de travail de tous les professeurs.* (He does the most work of all the teachers.)

**Plus and Moins**

Because *plus* and *moins* are adverbs, they are always preceded by *le*, despite the number and gender of the noun being compared. This is true only in the superlative:

*Cette fille court le plus vite.* This girl runs the fastest.

*Ces femmes travaillent le plus dur.* These women work the hardest.

**COMPARISONS OF EQUALITY**

Comparisons of equality show that two things are the same. Follow these simple formulas:

* *aussi* + adjective or adverb + *que* (as . . . as):

Elle est aussi intelligente que son frère. She is as intelligent as her brother.

Je parle français aussi bien que toi. I speak French as well as you.

* *Si* usually replaces *aussi* in negative comparisons: *Il n’est pas si paresseux que ça.* (He’s not all that lazy.)

* *autant de* + noun + *que* (as much/many . . . as):

Il a autant d’amis que toi. He has as many friends as you.

Je n’ai pas autant de patience que mon mari. I don’t have as much patience as my husband.
autant que + noun or pronoun (as much/many . . . as): Elle lit autant que son frère et moi. (She reads as much as her brother and I [do].)

COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE EXPRESSIONS
The following comparative and superlative expressions will help you speak more colloquially:

• *Faire de son mieux* (to do one’s best): Nous faisons tous de notre mieux. (We all do our best.)
• *Le plus (moins) possible* (as much [little] as possible): Ce garçon fait le plus possible. (This boy does as much as possible.)
• *Le plus (moins) . . . possible* (as . . . as possible): Elle travaille le moins vite possible. (She works as slowly as possible.)
• *Plus . . . plus* (the more . . . the more): Plus on travaille, plus on gagne. (The more you work, the more you earn.)
• *Moins . . . moins* (the less . . . the less): Moins on étudie, moins on apprend. (The less you study, the less you learn.)
• *Plus . . . moins* (the more . . . the less): Plus on mange, moins on a faim. (The more you eat, the less hungry you are.)
• *De plus en plus* (more and more): Tu apprends de plus en plus vite. (You learn more and more quickly.)
• *De moins en moins* (less and less): Les élèves se reposent de moins en moins. (The students rest less and less.)
• *De mieux en mieux* (better and better): Vous parlez français de mieux en mieux. (You speak French better and better.)
• *Tant bien que mal* (so-so, rather badly): Il cuisine tant bien que mal. (He cooks rather badly.)
• *Tant mieux* (pis) (so much the better [worse]): Il arrive aujourd’hui. Tant mieux. (He’s arriving today. So much the better.)

THE SUBJUNCTIVE AFTER SUPERLATIVE EXPRESSIONS
The subjunctive is used after superlative expressions showing an opinion, a feeling, or an emotion: *le premier* (the first); *le dernier* (the last); *le seul* (the only); *l’unique* (the only); *le meilleur* (the best).

Le français est la meilleure langue qu’on puisse étudier. French is the best language you can study.

Ce plan est le pire qu’on puisse acheter. This map is the worst that you can buy.
The indicative is used after a superlative when a fact is stated and no opinion on the part of the speaker is involved. The indicative is also used after the superlative of an adverb:

C’est mon meilleur élève qui est absent.
Il court le plus vite qu’il peut. He is running as fast as he can.

TIME’S UP!

Without looking back, see if you can use comparisons to do the following:

1. Compare two animals.
2. Compare two classroom subjects.
3. Compare two people, using adjectives.
4. Use the superlative to describe a person you know.
5. Compare the way in which two people do things, using adverbs.
6. Use the superlative to say what someone does best.
7. Say that you have more work than I.
8. Make a comparison of equality between you and a family member.
9. Say that you have as much patience as your friend.
10. Use the subjunctive to say that this is the best book you can buy.
Meeting Your Needs on the Road and Elsewhere

MASTER THESE SKILLS

- Acquiring hotel accommodations
- Using the subjunctive
- Using relative pronouns

In this lesson you’ll learn all there is to know about selecting the proper accommodations and getting the facilities and services you require. You’ll also learn more about the subjunctive and how to make exclamations and use relative pronouns.
HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS AND AMENITIES

Here is a list of the amenities you may desire when staying in a hotel:

- air conditioning la climatisation
- a bellhop un bagagiste
- a concierge un/un concierge
- a doorman un portier
- an elevator un ascenseur
- a fitness center une salle de gym, un club santé
- a gift shop une boutique
- maid service la gouvernante
- parking un parking
- a restaurant un restaurant
- room service le service aux chambres
- rooms for the disabled des chambres accessibles aux handicapés
- a safe un coffre-fort
- a television une télévision
- tennis courts des courts (m.) de tennis

Room Needs

When booking a room, if you have a preference as to view or location, you can make your wishes known by saying the following: Je voudrais avoir une chambre (avec) . . . (I would like to have a room [with] . . .):

- a balcony un balcon
- a garden un jardin
- a terrace une terrasse
- on the courtyard côté cour
- on the garden côté jardin
- on the sea côté mer

If you’ve found that you are missing something you need, use the following words and expressions to get what you desire:
I would like . . .  
I need . . .  
I am missing . . .  
a bar of soap  
a blanket  
a hair dryer  
a pillow  
a towel  
a transformer  
hangers  
toilet paper

Je voudrais . . .  
Il me faut . . . /J'ai besoin de (d') . . .  
Il me manque . . .  
une savonette  
une couverture  
un sèche-cheveux  
un oreiller  
une serviette  
un transformateur  
des cintres (m.)  
un rouleau de papier hygiénique

Not all hotel rooms in Europe have private bathroom facilities. If that is what you want, ask the following: Les chambres ont-elles une salle de bain privée? (Do the rooms have private bathrooms?)

EXCLAMATIONS

Exclamations can be used to give your positive or negative opinion about something. Make sure to use an exclamation and exclamation point (!) after it. Use one of the forms of quel below and an appropriate adjective to express your pleasure or displeasure, with the phrase: What a . . . ! or How much/many . . . !

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MASCULINE</th>
<th>FEMININE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singular</td>
<td>quel</td>
<td>quelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plural</td>
<td>quels</td>
<td>quelles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Make sure that quel agrees with the noun it is modifying and that any adjectives used also agree and are in their proper position:

Quel bel hôtel!  
Quelle chambre luxueuse!  
Quels bons restaurants!  
Quelles grandes piscines!  

What a beautiful hotel!  
What a luxurious room!  
What great restaurants!  
What large pools!
MORE USES OF THE SUBJUNCTIVE

The Subjunctive in Third Person Commands
The subjunctive is used in third person singular or plural commands:

Qu’il entre! Let him come in!
Qu’elle fasse le lit! Let her make the bed!
Qu’ils réussissent! May they succeed!
Vive la République! Long live the Republic!

The Subjunctive After Conjunctions
The subjunctive is used after certain conjunctions when uncertainty, doubt, purpose, anticipation, or indefiniteness is implied.

Conjunctions are words that connect and relate vocabulary words and pronouns, as well as two clauses in a sentence. You use them repeatedly in speaking and writing. Conjunctions do not change their form to indicate meaning.

You may use the subjunctive with the following conjunctions.

• That express time:
  en attendant que until
  jusqu’à ce que until
  avant que before

  J’attendrai jusqu’à ce que le portier vienne. I’ll wait until the porter comes.

• That express purpose:
  afin que in order that
  pour que in order that
  de façon que so that
  de sorte que so that
  de manière que so that

  Je partirai afin que la bonne puisse ranger la chambre. I’ll leave so that the maid can straighten the room.
For example:

à condition que provided that
pourvu que provided that
à moins que unless

Je resterai dans cet hôtel à condition qu’ils aient une piscine.
I’ll stay in this hotel provided that they have a pool.

That express concession:

bien que although
encore que although
quoique although

Je prendrai cette chambre bien qu’elle soit petite. I’ll take this room although it’s small.

That express negation:

sans without

Le portier est parti sans que je le sache.
The doorman left without my knowing it.

That express fear:

de peur que for fear that
de crainte que for fear that

Je téléphone de crainte que la bonne ne vienne pas. I’m calling for fear that the maid isn’t coming.

In affirmative sentences, à moins que, avant que, de peur que, and de crainte que are followed by ne before the verb, despite the fact that ne has no meaning: La bonne frappe à la porte de peur qu’elle ne nous dérange. (The maid knocks for fear that she will disturb us.)

With some conjunctions (afin, avant, sans, de crainte, de peur), the subjunctive may be avoided when the subjects of the main clause (can stand alone as a sentence) and the dependent clause (cannot stand alone as a sentence) are the same. In these cases, the words are used as prepositions, and you need to change que to de and add an infinitive:
The bellhop will knock before entering.
I waited in order to see the concierge.

Conjunctions That Take the Indicative
The following conjunctions take the indicative, not the subjunctive:

- après que  after
- aussitôt que  as soon as
- parce que  because
- pendant que  while
- peut-être que  perhaps
- puisque  since
- tandis que  while, whereas

She will straighten our room while he fixes the cable.
I will return to the room while you are swimming.

The Subjunctive in Relative Clauses
Use the subjunctive in a relative clause if the antecedent (the person or thing mentioned in the main clause) is indefinite, desired but not yet found, or nonexistent (or whose existence is in doubt):

I’m looking for a comfortable hotel.
Do you know anyone who can help me?
I can’t find anyone who knows that phone number.

In relative clauses, the que (that) that usually joins the clauses is replaced by qui (who).
RELATIVE PRONOUNS

A relative pronoun (who, which, that) joins a main clause to a dependent clause. This pronoun introduces the dependent clause that describes someone or something mentioned in the main clause. The person or thing the pronoun refers to is called the antecedent. A relative clause may serve as a subject, a direct object, or an object of a preposition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANTECEDENT</th>
<th>NO ANTECEDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subject</strong></td>
<td>qui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Direct object</strong></td>
<td>que (qu’)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Object of de</strong></td>
<td>dont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Object of all</strong></td>
<td>qui/lequel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE**

Although frequently omitted in English, the relative pronoun is always expressed in French: C’est un pays que j’adore. (It’s a country [that] I love.)

The verb of a relative clause introduced by *qui* is conjugated to agree with its antecedent: C’est moi qui choisis toujours de bons hôtels. (I am the one who always chooses good hotels.)

**Qui (Subject) and Que (Direct Object)**

*Qui* (who, which, that) is the subject of a relative clause, which means that it will be followed by a verb in the dependent clause. *Qui* may refer to people, things, or places. Use the following formula to construct the sentence: antecedent (noun or pronoun) + *qui* + verb.

- He’s the man who won a prize. C’est l’homme qui a gagné un prix.
- It’s the hotel that won a prize. C’est l’hôtel qui a gagné un prix.
- The hotel on the ocean won a prize. L’hôtel qui donne sur l’océan a gagné un prix.

*Que* (whom, which, that) is the direct object of a relative clause (which means that it will be followed by a noun or pronoun). *Que* may refer to people or things. Use the following formula to construct your sentences: antecedent (noun or pronoun) + *que* + noun or pronoun + verb.
He's a man (whom) I love. C’est un homme que j’adore.

It’s a hotel (that) I love. C’est un hôtel que j’adore.

France is a country (that) I have visited. La France est un pays que j’ai visité.

Because que serves as a direct object and precedes the verb of the dependent clause, the past participle of a verb in a compound tense must agree with the antecedent of que (the noun or pronoun in the main clause):

Voici les livres qu’il a écrits. (Here are the books he wrote.)

**Qui and Lequel (Objects of a Preposition)**

*Qui* (whom) is used as the object of a preposition referring to a person: *Michel est le garçon avec qui je voyage.* (Michael is the boy with whom I am traveling.)

*Lequel* (laquelle, lesquels, lesquelles) (which, whom) is used as the object of a preposition referring primarily to things. It is used to refer to people with the prepositions *entre* (between) and *parmi* (among) and to clarify the gender and number of an ambiguous antecedent. The form of *lequel* must agree with the antecedent.

That’s the inn in which my family is staying. C’est l’auberge dans laquelle ma famille reste.

There are the people among whom I was sitting. Voilà les gens parmi lesquels j’étais assis.

My sister’s friend, with whom I’m going out, is handsome. L’ami de ma soeur, avec lequel je sors, est très beau.

In the last example, *whom* can refer to friend or sister; *lequel* clarifies that the speaker is referring to the friend (m.).

Remember that *lequel* and its forms contract after the prepositions *à* and *de* (see Chapter 13:00):

That’s the hotel to which I will be going. C’est l’hôtel auquel j’irai.

That is the movie about which he spoke. C’est le film duquel il a parlé.

**Dont**

*Dont* is used with verbs and expressions requiring *de* and means “about, of, or from whom” or “about, of, from which.” *Dont* immediately follows its antecedent and may refer to people, places, or things.

That’s the woman about whom everyone is speaking. C’est la femme dont (de qui) tout le monde parle.

224
That's the city I came back from. C'est la ville dont (d'où) je suis revenue.

There's the pen (that) I need. Voici le stylo dont (duquel) j'ai besoin.

Note the following about the use of *dont*:

- *Dont* may not follow compound prepositions (prepositions made up of two or more words) such as: à côté de, près de, en face de, etc. In these cases, use *de qui* or *de* + a form of *lequel*:

  That's the girl next to whom Éric sat. C'est la fille à côté de qui Éric s'est assis.

  That's the café near which the theater is located. C'est le café près duquel se trouve le théâtre.

- *Dont* has a special position when it is used to express possession or relationship. In these cases, the definite article (not the possessive adjective) is used:

  That's the girl whose father I know. C'est la fille dont je connais le père.

  I know a girl whose father is a doctor. Je connais une fille dont le père est docteur.

- To refer to people or things, *dont* is generally preferred to *de qui* or *de* + a form of *lequel*:

  It's that man about whom I am speaking. C'est cet homme dont je parle.

  There's the book I need. Voilà le livre dont j'ai besoin.

*Où*

The relative pronoun *où* (where, in which, on which, when, that) is used to indicate “a specific time when” or “the place where” and replaces *dans, à, and sur* + a form of *lequel*.

I remember the day (that) I met him. Je me souviens du jour où j'ai fait sa connaissance.

It's the city where she was born. C'est la ville où elle est née.

*Ce Qui, Ce Que, Ce Dont*

The relative pronouns *ce qui, ce que, and ce dont* are used when there is no antecedent noun as follows:
Ce qui means “what (that which)” and is the subject of a verb:  
*Je me demande ce qui s’est passé.* (I wonder what happened.)

Ce que means “what (that which)” and is the object of a verb:  
*Je sais ce que ça veut dire.* (I know what that means.)

Ce dont means “what (that of which)” and is used with expressions taking de: *S’il vous plaît, donnez-moi ce dont j’ai besoin.*  
(please give me what I need.)

**NOTE**

Ce qui, ce que, and ce dont are used after the pronoun tout to express “everything that” or “all that”:

- I like everything that is French.  
  J’adore tout ce qui est français.

- I didn’t hear everything you said.  
  Je n’ai pas entendu tout ce que vous avez dit.

- You have all that I need.  
  Vous avez tout ce dont j’ai besoin.

**TIME’S UP!**

After studying the material in this chapter, you should be able to do the following without looking back:

1. Ask the concierge if the hotel has a garage.
2. Say you want a room with an ocean view.
3. Say you need a pillow.
4. Use an exclamation to say: “What a great room!”
5. Use the subjunctive to say: “Let them come in!”
6. Say that you will stay at the hotel provided there are tennis courts.
7. Say that you’re searching for a luxurious hotel.
8. Ask if there’s a person who speaks English.
9. Say: “That’s the room I want.”
10. Say that you have everything that you need.
Speaking of Food

MASTER THESE SKILLS

• Using adverbs and nouns of quantity and the partitive
• Selecting an eating establishment and getting started
• Selecting meats, poultry, and fish
• Selecting vegetables and fruits
• Cooking to perfection
• Using or avoiding herbs, condiments, and spices
• Selecting a drink and a dessert
• Using proper restaurant etiquette
• Using en for efficient speech

In this chapter you’ll learn how to buy the quantity of food you want and how to order in a restaurant.
QUANTITIES
Should you decide to purchase food in a French market, you’ll want to be able to express the correct quantity. In the French-speaking world, the metric system is used for measuring quantities of food: Liquids are measured in liters, and solids are measured in kilograms. If you are accustomed to dealing with ounces, pounds, pints, quarts, and gallons, use this quick conversion chart:

### Measurement Conversion Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPROXIMATE SOLID MEASURES</th>
<th>APPROXIMATE LIQUID MEASURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 ounce = 28 grams</td>
<td>1 ounce = 30 milliliters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4 pound = 125 grams</td>
<td>16 ounces (1 pint) = 475 milliliters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 pound = 250 grams</td>
<td>32 ounces (1 quart) = 950 milliliters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 pound = 375 grams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 pounds = 500 grams</td>
<td>1 gallon = 3.75 liters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 pounds = 1,000 grams</td>
<td>(1 kilogram)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adverbs and adjectives of quantity also help you to generalize or be more specific about the amounts you need. They are used to give a less specific amount:

- as much, many: autant de
- enough: assez de
- how much, many: combien de
- less, fewer: moins de
- little, few: peu de

I don’t have enough meat. Je n’ai pas assez de viande.

### Nouns of Quantity

Nouns of quantity allow for a measurement based on weight or on the type of container.

- two pounds of: un kilo de
- a half pound of: deux cent cinquante grammes de
Adverbs and nouns of quantity are followed by *de* to express “of.” No definite article is used: *Donnez-moi assez (cinq cents grammes) de viande, s’il vous plaît.* (Please give me enough [a pound of] meat.)

### THE PARTITIVE

Another way to ask for an indefinite quantity is to use the partitive, which says that you want part of a whole (“some” or “any”). Before a noun, the partitive is generally expressed by *de* + the definite article:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARTITIVE</th>
<th>USED BEFORE</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>du</td>
<td>masculine singular nouns beginning with a consonant</td>
<td>du café (some coffee)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de la</td>
<td>feminine singular nouns beginning with a consonant</td>
<td>de la viande (some meat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de l’</td>
<td>any singular noun beginning with a vowel</td>
<td>de l’eau (some water)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>des</td>
<td>all plural nouns</td>
<td>des fruits (some fruits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note the following about the use of the partitive:

- Although the partitive *some* or *any* may be omitted in English, it may not be omitted in French and must be repeated before each noun: *Je prendrai des spaghettis et de la salade.* (I will have spaghetti and salad.)
- In a negative sentence, the partitive *some* or *any* is expressed by *de* without the article: *Non, merci. Je ne veux pas de viande.* (No, thank you. I don’t want any meat.)
- Before a singular adjective preceding a singular noun, the partitive is expressed regularly: *Il boit du bon cidre.* (He is drinking good cider.)
- Before a plural adjective preceding a plural noun, the partitive is expressed by *de* alone: *Ce sont de bons légumes.* (They are good vegetables.)
The following nouns and adverbs of quantity are followed by *de* + definite article:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverb of Quantity</th>
<th>French Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>most</td>
<td>la plupart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a good many (deal)</td>
<td>bien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>la plus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>grande partie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>la majorité</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>la plus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most people like this restaurant. *La plupart des gens aiment ce restaurant.*

- The adjectives *plusieurs* (several) and *quelques* (some) modify the noun directly: *J’adore plusieurs (quelques) légumes.* (I like several [some] vegetables.)
- The partitive is not used with *sans* (without) and *ne . . . ni . . . ni* (neither . . . nor): *Je prendrai du café sans lait.* (I’ll take coffee without milk.) *Elle ne boit ni café ni thé.* (She doesn’t drink coffee or tea.)

### Using the Definite or Indefinite Article or the Partitive

Use *un* or *une* when speaking about one portion or serving. Use an adverb or noun of quantity or the partitive to express amounts:

- A coffee, please. *Un café, s’il vous plaît.*
- A cup of coffee, please. *Une tasse de café, s’il vous plaît.*
- Some coffee, please. *Du café, s’il vous plaît.*

Use the partitive to express “some” or “part” of something. Use the definite article (*le, la, l’, les*) with nouns in a general sense:

- *J’adore le chocolat.* I love chocolate (in general).
- *Donne-moi du chocolat.* Give me some chocolate.

### EATING ESTABLISHMENTS

France offers a wide variety of eating establishments to suit your hunger and your pocketbook, whether you are eating breakfast (*le petit déjeuner*), lunch (*le déjeuner*), dinner (*le diner*), or an early afternoon snack (*le goûter*):

- an inn: *une auberge*
- a small informal neighborhood pub or tavern: *un bistro*
- a large café serving quick meals: *une brasserie*
- a small neighborhood café: *un café*
a self-service restaurant  une cafétéria/un self
a stand or restaurant serving crêpes  une crêperie
(filled pancakes)
a fast-food chain restaurant  un fast-food

FOODS
Whether you are dining in or out, knowing the names of the foods you like, in French, will help you to get exactly what you want. The tables and lists that follow will help you with your choices from soup to nuts, and will serve as useful tools in deciphering a French menu.

NOTE
The French enjoy a before-dinner apéritif, which is touted as an appetite stimulant. Among the more popular varieties are vermouth, such as Dubonnet (a flavored wine made from red or white grapes), and Cinzano, Pernod, and Ricard (licorice-flavored drinks made from anise).

Appetizers (Les Hors-d’oeuvre)
Appetizers are an important part of a typical French meal. Tell your waiter: Pour commencer, je prendrai . . . (To begin, I’ll have . . . ). Then choose from these appetizers:

- des crudités variées  sliced raw vegetables, usually in a vinaigrette sauce
- des escargots  snails
- du foie gras  fresh goose liver mousse and toasted French bread
- du pâté  pureed chicken or duck liver mousse or other meat
- de la quiche lorraine  egg custard tart served with bacon or ham

Soups (Les Soupes)
You can expect to find the following soups on a French menu:

- la bisque  creamy soup made with crayfish or lobster
- la bouillabaisse  seafood stew
- le consommé  clear broth
- la petite marmite  rich consommé with vegetables and meat
le potage thick soup with pureed vegetables
la soupe à l'oignon onion soup served with bread and cheese
le velouté creamy soup

Main Meals (Les Plats Principaux)
For your main dish you will probably want some meat, poultry, or fish. Whether you go to the butcher (à la boucherie), to the delicatessen (à la charcuterie), or to a restaurant, the names of these items will come in handy. To make your selection, say: Je voudrais . . . (I would like [some] . . .):

Meats (Les Viandes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>du boeuf</td>
<td>beef</td>
<td>du rosbif</td>
<td>roast beef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>du jambon</td>
<td>ham</td>
<td>des saucisses (f.)</td>
<td>sausage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de l’agneau (m.)</td>
<td>lamb</td>
<td>une entrecôte (f.)</td>
<td>sirloin steak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>du gigot d’agneau</td>
<td>leg of lamb</td>
<td>du bifteck</td>
<td>steak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>du porc</td>
<td>pork</td>
<td>du veau</td>
<td>veal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>une côte de boeuf</td>
<td>prime rib</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fowl and Game (La Volaille et le Gibier)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>du poulet</td>
<td>chicken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>du canard</td>
<td>duck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de l’oie (f.)</td>
<td>goose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de la dinde</td>
<td>turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>du chevreuil</td>
<td>venison</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fish and Seafood (Le Poisson et les Fruits de Mer)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>des anchoiiss (f.)</td>
<td>anchoyves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de la perche</td>
<td>bass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de la palourde</td>
<td>clam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>du cabillaud</td>
<td>codfish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>du crabe</td>
<td>crab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>du carrelet</td>
<td>flounder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>des cuisses (f.)</td>
<td>frogs’ legs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de grenouille</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>des moules (f.)</td>
<td>mussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>des huîtres (f.)</td>
<td>oysters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>des coquilles</td>
<td>scallops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint-Jacques (f.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>des crevettes (f.)</td>
<td>shrimp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>des escargots (m.)</td>
<td>snails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de la sole</td>
<td>sole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de la truite</td>
<td>trout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>du thon</td>
<td>tuna</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

232
Salad (*La Salade*)
The list below gives the names of vegetables, fruits, and nuts that you might like in your salad.

**Vegetables (*Les Légumes*)**
- des asperges (f.) asparagus
- des haricots verts (m.) beans (green)
- du chou cabbage
- des carottes (f.) carrots
- du maïs corn
- du concombre cucumber
- de l’aubergine (f.) eggplant
- de la laitue lettuce
- du poivron pepper
- de terre potato
- une tomate tomato
- de la courgette zucchini

**Fruits (*Les Fruits*)**
- une pomme apple
- une banane banana
- des myrtilles (f.) blueberries
- des cerises (f.) cherries
- des raisins grapes
- du citron lemon
- des framboises (f.) raspberries
- des fraises (f.) strawberries

**Nuts (*Les Nois*)**
- des amandes (f.) almonds
- des marrons (m.) chestnuts
- des noisettes (f.) hazelnuts
- des noix (f.) walnuts
**Eggs (Les Oeufs)**

Eggs are quite popular in France, but not for breakfast. Refer to the list below to get eggs prepared the way you like them:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>brouillés</td>
<td>scrambled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>à la coque</td>
<td>soft-boiled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>durs</td>
<td>hard-boiled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>une omelette</td>
<td>omelette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>au plat</td>
<td>fried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pochés</td>
<td>poached</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE**

*Un œuf* (one egg) is pronounced uhN nuf; *des œufs* (more than one egg) is pronounced day zuh (the *f* is unpronounced).

**Menu Terms**

Menu terms often offer a description of how the dish is prepared. These terms will help you select a dish that suits your tastes:

```plaintext
Sauces (Les Sauces)

à la bonne femme       white wine sauce with vegetables
béarnaise               butter-egg sauce flavored with wine, shallots, and tarragon
blanquette              creamy egg and white wine sauce for stew
daube                   stew with red wine, onions, and garlic
hollandaise             egg yolk butter sauce with lemon juice or vinegar
jardinière              with vegetables
maître d’hôtel           butter sauce with parsley and lemon juice
mornay                  white sauce with cheese
rémoulade                mayonnaise flavored with mustard and herbs
```

**Cooking It to Perfection**

To ensure that your entree is cooked to your liking, specify the following by saying: *Je le (la, les) voudrais . . .* (I want it . . .):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>baked</td>
<td>cuit au four in juices au jus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boiled</td>
<td>bouilli(e)(s) mashed en purée</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fried</td>
<td>frit(e)(s) medium à point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grilled</td>
<td>grillé(e)(s) rare saignant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
roasted   rôt(e)(s)     very rare   bleu(e)(s)
sautéed  sauté(e)(s)    well-done   bien cuit(e)(s)
steamed   à la vapeur

Herbs, Condiments, and Spices  
*Les Herbes, les Condiments, et les Épices*
Use the phrase *Je voudrais* . . . (I would like [some] . . .) to specify what herbs and spices you like.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Herb</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bay leaf</td>
<td>de la feuille de laurier</td>
<td>lemon de laurier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>butter</td>
<td>du beurre</td>
<td>mayonnaise de la mayonnaise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dill</td>
<td>de l’aneth (m.)</td>
<td>parsley de persil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>garlic</td>
<td>de l’ail (m.)</td>
<td>pepper du poivre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>horseradish</td>
<td>du raifort</td>
<td>salt du sel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jam, jelly</td>
<td>de la confiture</td>
<td>sugar du sucre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Drinks  
*Les Boissons*
When you would like a beverage (*une boisson*), look for something from the list below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drink</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>beer</td>
<td>de la bière</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>champagne</td>
<td>du champagne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coffee</td>
<td>du café</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with milk</td>
<td>au lait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with cream</td>
<td>crème</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>black</td>
<td>noir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>decaffeinated</td>
<td>décaféiné</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>juice</td>
<td>du jus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mineral water</td>
<td>de l’eau (f.) minérale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carbonated</td>
<td>gazeuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noncarbonated</td>
<td>plate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>milk</td>
<td>du lait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soda</td>
<td>du soda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tea</td>
<td>du thé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with lemon</td>
<td>au citron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with sugar</td>
<td>sucré</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wine</td>
<td>du vin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTE

If you want to be specific about a type of juice, use de + the name of the fruit: le jus d’orange (orange juice).

The French often drink wine with their dinner. The glass in which the wine is served depends on the type of wine you have selected: red, white, rosé, or champagne. Prices for table wines are generally low because they are lesser-quality wines. The wines you may order include the following:

- red wine      le vin rouge
- sparkling wine le vin mousseux
- white wine    le vin blanc
- champagne     le champagne

Desserts (Les Desserts)
Desserts are always a sweet ending to a delicious meal. Consider ordering one of the following:

- des beignets (m.)      fritters
- des biscuits (m.)      cookies
- une charlotte            sponge cake and pudding
- des choux (m.) à la crème cream puffs
- du gâteau (m.)          cake
- de la glace              ice cream
- des œufs (m.) à la neige meringues in a custard sauce
- des profiteroles (f.)   cream puffs with chocolate sauce
- une tarte                 pie
- du yaourt (m.)          yogurt

Ice Cream (Glace)
For the type and flavor (le parfum) of ice cream you prefer, ask for:

- a cone        un cornet  vanilla à la vanille
- a cup         une coupe  strawberry à la fraise
- chocolate     au chocolat

Cheese (Fromage)
In France, it is quite customary to serve a plate of cheese (du fromage) as one of the courses after the main dish. Popular cheeses include: boursin, brie, camembert, chèvre, munster, port-salut, and roquefort.
Table Settings
If something is missing from your place setting, or if you need something additional at the table, ask your server as follows: *Il me faut* . . . (I need [a] . . .):

- bowl: un bol
- dinner plate: une assiette
- fork: une fourchette
- glass: un verre
- knife: un couteau
- menu: un menu, une carte
- napkin: une serviette
- pepper shaker: un poivrier
- saltshaker: une salière
- soup bowl: une assiette à soupe
- teaspoon: une cuillère à café

Restaurant Etiquette
When reserving a table, you can use the following information: *Je voudrais réserver une table* . . . (I would like to reserve a table . . .):

- for this evening: pour ce soir
- for tomorrow evening: pour demain soir
- for Saturday night: pour samedi soir
- for six people: pour six personnes
- at 8:30 PM: à huit heures et demie

To find out about the menu, you would ask:

- What is today’s specialty? Quel est le plat du jour?
- What do you recommend? Qu’est-ce que vous recommandez?
- What is the house specialty? Quelle est la spécialité de la maison?

Good manners dictate that when your meal arrives, you wish your fellow diners *bon appétit* (a hearty appetite).
**Dietary Restrictions**

Whether because of personal preference or in order to follow the advice of a doctor, it is very important to be able to express any dietary restrictions you might have:

- I am on a diet.  
  Je suis au régime.
- I’m a vegetarian.  
  Je suis végétarien(ne).
- I can’t have . . .  
  Je ne tolère . . .
- any dairy products  
  aucun produit laitier
- any shellfish  
  aucun fruit de mer
- I’m looking for a dish (that is) . . .  
  Je cherche un plat . . .

  kosher  
  kasher
  low in fat  
  léger en matières grasses
  low in sodium  
  léger en sodium
  nondairy  
  non-laitier
  salt-free  
  sans sel
  sugar-free  
  sans sucre

**Problems**

If your meal isn’t up to par, explain the problem using the phrases below:

- It . . .  
  Il (Elle) . . .
- is cold  
  est froid(e)
- is too rare  
  n’est pas assez cuit(e)
- is overcooked  
  est trop cuit(e)
- is too salty  
  est trop salé(e)
- is spoiled  
  est tourné(e)
- is bitter  
  est aigre

At the end of the meal, to ask for the check, you would say: *L’addition, s’il vous plaît.*
EN

The pronoun *en* refers to previously mentioned things or places. *En* usually replaces *de* + noun and may mean any of the following:

- some or any (of it/them)
- about it/them
- from it/them
- from there

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Je veux de la salade.</td>
<td>I want some salad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J'en veux.</td>
<td>I want some (of it).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elle ne veut pas de fruits.</td>
<td>She doesn't want any fruit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elle n'en veut pas.</td>
<td>She doesn't want any (of them).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tu parles du café.</td>
<td>You speak about the café.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tu en parles.</td>
<td>You speak about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ils sortent du restaurant.</td>
<td>They leave the restaurant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ils en sortent.</td>
<td>They leave it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note the following about *en*:

- *En* is always expressed in French even though it may have no English equivalent or may not be expressed in English:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As-tu de l'argent?</td>
<td>Do you have any money?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oui, j'en ai.</td>
<td>Yes, I do.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- *En* is placed before the verb to which its meaning is tied, usually before the conjugated verb. When there are two verbs, *en* is placed before the infinitive:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J'en prends.</td>
<td>I take (eat) some.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Je n'en prends pas.</td>
<td>I don't take (eat) any.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Je (ne) vais (pas) manger du gateau.</td>
<td>I'm (not) going to eat some (any) cake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Je (ne) vais (pas) en manger.</td>
<td>I'm (not) going to eat some (any).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In an affirmative command, *en* changes position and is placed immediately after the verb and is joined to it by a hyphen. The familiar command forms of *-er* verbs (regular and irregular) retain their final *s* before *en*. This is to prevent the clash of two vowel sounds. Remember to put a liaison (linking) between the final consonant and *en*:

- **Manges-en!** Eat some! (familiar)  
  (mahNzh zahN)

- **Mangez-en!** Eat some! (polite/plural)  
  (mahNzhay zahN)

* *En* is used with idiomatic expressions requiring *de*:

- **J'ai besoin d'une fourchette.** I need a fork.
- **J'en ai besoin.** I need one.

* *En* is used to replace a noun (*de* + noun) after a number or a noun or adverb of quantity:

- **Il prépare deux sandwiches.** He is preparing two sandwiches.
- **Il en prépare deux.** He is preparing two (of them).

- **Il boit une tasse de thé.** He is drinking a cup of tea.
- **Il en boit une tasse.** He is drinking a cup of it.

- **Il a beaucoup de tartes.** He has a lot of pies.
- **Il en a beaucoup.** He has a lot (of them).

* *En* may be used in place of *de* + noun only when referring to people in a group or in an indefinite sentence. In all other instances, a stress pronoun is used:

- **J'ai beaucoup d'amis.** I have a lot of friends.
- **J'en ai beaucoup.** I have a lot of them.

- **Je parle de Michel.** I speak about Michael.
- **Je parle de lui.** I speak about him.
The following are some common expressions with *en*:

- **avoir envie de** to feel like
  - *J'ai envie de sortir.* I feel like going out.
  - *J'en ai envie.* I feel like it.

- **avoir besoin de** to need
  - *J'ai besoin du crayon.* I need the pencil.
  - *J'en ai besoin.* I need it.

- **avoir assez de** to have enough of
  - *J'ai assez de gâteau.* I have enough cake.
  - *J'en ai assez.* I have enough of it.

- **penser de** to think about
  - *Que penses-tu de cette idée?* What do you think of that idea?
  - *Qu'en penses-tu?* What do you think of it?

- **s'en aller** to leave, go away
  - *Je m'en vais.* I’m leaving.

- **s'en faire** to worry
  - *Ne vous en faites pas.* Don’t worry about it.

- **se servir de** to use
  - *Je me sers d'un couteau.* I use a knife.
  - *Je m'en sers.* I use one (it).

- **se soucier de** to care about
  - *Je me soucie de mes affaires.* I care about my business.
  - *Je m’en soucie.* I care about it.
NOTE

Two very colloquial expressions that are commonly used are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J’en ai marre.</td>
<td>I am fed up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Je m’en fiche.</td>
<td>I don’t care./I don’t give a damn.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TIME’S UP!

Although many foods were mentioned in this lesson, try not to look back while doing the following:

1. Ask the butcher for 500 grams of meat.
2. Say that you will begin your meal with snails.
3. Name a vegetable you like.
4. Say you want your dish cooked medium.
5. Order a dessert.
6. Say you need another glass because yours is dirty.
7. Reserve a table for this evening for four people at 9:30 P.M. on the terrace.
8. Ask for today’s specialty.
9. Explain that you can’t have any dairy products.
10. Ask for the check.
Medically Speaking

MASTER THESE SKILLS

• Going to the pharmacy
• Using prepositional modifiers
• Expressing medical problems
• Going to the doctor
• Asking and answering “how long?”

In this chapter you’ll learn how to get the drugstore items and medical attention you need. You’ll also learn to express how long something has been going on.
AT THE PHARMACY

If you’ve accidentally left a toiletry article at home, run out of something you need, or are just feeling under the weather, you’ll probably want to take a fast trip to a local pharmacy.

- **Une pharmacie**, easily identifiable by a green cross above the door, sells prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, items intended for personal hygiene, and some beauty products. When the pharmacy is closed, there may be a sign on the door indicating where to find an open all-night pharmacy (**une pharmacie de garde**).
- **Une parapharmacie** sells vitamins, herbal remedies, supplements, and dietetic products along with beauty and personal hygiene products.
- **Une droguerie** does not dispense prescriptions but sells chemical products, paints, household cleansers and accessories (such as mops, brooms, and buckets), and some hygiene and cosmetic products.
- **Un drugstore**, which resembles a small department store, does not sell prescription medicine. Its varied departments sell personal hygiene items, books, magazines, newspapers, records, maps, guides, gifts, and souvenirs. You may find fast-food restaurants, a bar, and even a movie theater at some of these establishments.

To ask for an over-the-counter cure, you would say: *Avez-vous un remède pour . . . ?* (Do you have a cure for . . . ?)

To fill a prescription, tell the druggist:

- I need this medication. *Il me faut ce médicament.*
- Could you please fill this prescription (immediately)? *Pourriez-vous préparer (immédiatement) cette ordonnance, s’il vous plaît?*

If you’re looking for a product you can purchase off the shelf, begin by saying to a clerk:

- I’m looking for . . . *Je cherche . . .*
- I need . . . *Il me faut . . .*
- Do you carry . . . *Avez-vous . . . ?*

Then use the words below to express your needs:

- antacid: *un antiacide*
- antihistamine: *un antihistaminique*
- antiseptic: *un antiseptique*
- aspirin: *des aspirines (f.)*
bandages des pansements (m.)
brush une brosse
condoms des préservatifs (m.)
deoendorant du déodorant
laxative un laxatif
moisturizer de la crème hydratante
mouthwash un bain de bouche
razor (electric) un rasoir (électrique)
sanitary napkins des serviettes (f.) hygiéniques
shampoo du shampooing
shaving cream de la crème à raser
soap (bar) une savonette
tampons des tampons (m.)
tissues des mouchoirs (m.) en papier
toothbrush une brosse à dents
toothpaste du dentifrice

If you’re traveling with a baby, you may need the following:

bottle un biberon
diapers (disposable) des couches (m.) (jetables)
pacifier une tétine

If the hour is late, ask the concierge of your hotel: Où se trouve la pharmacie de garde la plus proche? (Where is the nearest all-night pharmacy?)

PREPOSITIONAL MODIFIERS

Prepositions relate two elements of a sentence. Some of the examples below use the preposition in the French version but not necessarily in the English translation.
• Noun to noun: Il est le docteur de mon père. (He is my father’s doctor.)
• Verb to verb: Il commence à pleurer. (He begins to cry.)
• Verb to noun: Elle pense à Raymond. (She thinks about Raymond.)
• Verb to pronoun: Elle pense à lui. (She thinks about him.)

A preposition + a noun modifying another noun is equivalent to an adjective: des épingles à cheveux (hairpins), du sirop contre la toux (cough medicine), des gouttes pour les yeux (eyedrops), une trousse de secours (a first-aid kit), des mouchoirs en papier (paper handkerchiefs, tissues).

A preposition + a noun modifying a verb is equivalent to an adverb: Le pharmacien parle avec soin. (The pharmacist speaks carefully.)

Note the following about the use of prepositions:
• The preposition à + noun is used to express the use, the function, or the characteristic of an object: du vernis à ongles (nail polish), de l’ombre à paupières (eye shadow), une armoire à pharmacie (a medicine cabinet).
• The preposition à + verb may be used to describe the purpose of a noun: de la crème à raser (shaving cream), une pince à épiler (tweezers).
• The preposition de + noun is used to express the source, the goal, or the content of an object. The preposition en may also be used, but less frequently: des épingles de sûreté (safety pins), des mouchoirs en papier (tissues), un bain de bouche (mouthwash).

PARTS OF THE BODY
If illness strikes while you are traveling, it is best to know the parts of the body so that you can describe exactly what ails you:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ankle</td>
<td>la cheville</td>
<td>finger</td>
<td>le doigt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arm</td>
<td>le bras</td>
<td>foot</td>
<td>le pied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>back</td>
<td>le dos</td>
<td>hand</td>
<td>la main</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>body</td>
<td>le corps</td>
<td>head</td>
<td>la tête</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chest</td>
<td>la poitrine</td>
<td>heart</td>
<td>le coeur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ear</td>
<td>l’oreille (f.)</td>
<td>knee</td>
<td>le genou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elbow</td>
<td>le coude</td>
<td>leg</td>
<td>la jambe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eye</td>
<td>l’oeil (m.)</td>
<td>lip</td>
<td>la lévre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eyes</td>
<td>les yeux</td>
<td>liver</td>
<td>le foie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

246
When speaking about the eyes, one eye is un oeil (uhN nuhy), and both eyes are les yeux (lay zyuh).

MEDICAL PROBLEMS
When someone is concerned about your health, you would expect to hear:

Qu’est-ce que vous avez? What’s the matter with you?
Qu’est-ce qu’il y a? What’s the matter?

To say that you or someone else has an ache or hurt, you would answer using the verb avoir to express what you have and where: j’ai mal . . . (I have a/an . . . ache.) Ils ont mal au ventre. (They have a stomach ache.) Elle a mal à la tête. (She has a headache.) Remember to use the correct form of à + definite article.

Although French uses avoir (to have) to express what’s bothering a person, English may not include the word have: j’ai mal aux oreilles. (My ears hurt.)

Should you need to explain your symptoms to the doctor, use the words below. Preface your explanation with: j’ai . . . (I have [a/an] . . . )

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Broken Bone</th>
<th>Une fracture</th>
<th>Fever</th>
<th>De la fièvre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burn</td>
<td>Une brûlure</td>
<td>Indigestion</td>
<td>Une indigestion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chills</td>
<td>Des frissons (m.)</td>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>Une infection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>Une toux</td>
<td>Pain</td>
<td>Une douleur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cramps</td>
<td>Des crampes (f.)</td>
<td>Rash</td>
<td>Une éruption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut</td>
<td>Une coupure</td>
<td>Sprain</td>
<td>Une foulure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td>De la diarrhée</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other expressions for health symptoms you may need to know include:

- I’m coughing. Je tousse.
- I’m constipated. Je suis constipé(e).
- I’m sneezing. J’éternue.
- I feel bad. Je me sens mal.
- I’m bleeding. Je saigne.
- I’m exhausted. Je n’en peux plus.
- I’m nauseated. J’ai des nausées.

Use the following when you need a dentist: J’ai mal aux dents. (I’ve got a toothache.)

**AT THE DOCTOR’s OFFICE**

A visit to the doctor will require that you answer questions based on your medical history:

- Have you had . . . ? Avez-vous subi (eu) . . . ?
- Do you suffer from . . . ? Souffrez-vous de (d’) + definite article. . . . ?

To answer these questions, say:

- I’ve had . . . J’ai subi (eu) . . .
- I suffer from . . . Je souffre de (d’) + definite article. . . .

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>an allergic reaction</td>
<td>une réaction allergique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diabetes</td>
<td>le diabète</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dizziness</td>
<td>des vertiges (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>angina</td>
<td>une angine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the flu</td>
<td>la grippe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>asthma</td>
<td>l’asthme (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a heart attack</td>
<td>une crise cardiaque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bronchitis</td>
<td>la bronchite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a stroke</td>
<td>une attaque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cancer</td>
<td>le cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d’apoplexie</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a cold</td>
<td>un rhume</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You may also use the reflexive verb *se sentir* to express how you feel:

- I feel well. We feel poorly. Je me sens bien. Nous nous sentons mal.
- Do you feel very well? You feel very poorly. Tu te sens très bien? Vous vous sentez très mal.
- He feels better. They feel worse. Il se sent mieux. Ils se sentent pire.
ASKING AND ANSWERING “HOW LONG?”
The phrases below suggest the different ways you may hear the question that asks how long you’ve had your symptoms or complaints, and ways in which to answer correctly. The phrases vary in difficulty, but all mean the same thing:

Since when . . . ?  
Depuis quand . . . ?

Since when have you been suffering?  
Depuis quand souffrez-vous?

How long has (have) . . . been . . . ?  
Depuis combien de temps . . . ?

How long have you been suffering?  
Depuis combien de temps souffrez-vous?

How long has (have) . . . been . . . ?  
Combien de temps y a-t-il que . . .

How long have you been suffering?  
Combien de temps y a-t-il que vous souffrez?

How long has (have) . . . been . . . ?  
Ça fait combien de temps que . . . ?

How long have you been suffering?  
Ça fait combien de temps que vous souffrez?

The doctor’s office is referred to as *le cabinet*; the waiting room is *la salle d’attente*; and the nurse is *l’infirmier(ère)*.

If you need to pay a visit to the doctor or dentist, you would ask the concierge at your hotel: *Où est le cabinet médical le plus proche?* (Where is the nearest doctor’s office?)

05:00 - MEDICALLY SPEAKING
TIME'S UP!

Try to perform the following tasks without looking back at the lesson:

1. Ask to have a prescription filled immediately.
2. Say that you're looking for aspirin.
3. Ask if they have tissues.
4. Say you have a headache.
5. Ask someone what's the matter.
6. Say that your feet hurt.
7. Say that you have a very bad toothache.
8. You have the flu. Give your symptoms.
9. Say you suffer from dizziness.
10. Tell how long you've been suffering.
Choosing and Buying Clothing

MASTER THESE SKILLS

• Selecting clothing
• Selecting sizes and getting alterations
• Expressing a problem
• Selecting colors
• Making a purchase
• Using variable demonstrative pronouns

In this chapter you’ll learn how to describe and buy clothing in just the right size. You’ll also learn how to give your opinion about items you see and how to use demonstrative pronouns.
CLOTHING
While traveling, you may want to purchase some articles of clothing (*les vêtements*). The list below will help you find what you’re looking for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bathing suit</td>
<td>le maillot de bain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>belt</td>
<td>la ceinture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blouse</td>
<td>le chemisier, la blouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boots</td>
<td>les bottes (f.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bra</td>
<td>le soutien-gorge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>briefs</td>
<td>le slip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coat</td>
<td>le manteau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dress</td>
<td>la robe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gloves</td>
<td>les gants (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hat</td>
<td>le chapeau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jacket</td>
<td>la veste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jeans</td>
<td>le jean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pajamas</td>
<td>le pyjama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>panties</td>
<td>la culotte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pants</td>
<td>le pantalon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>panty hose, tights</td>
<td>les collants (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pocketbook</td>
<td>le sac (à main)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>raincoat</td>
<td>l’imperméable (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>robe</td>
<td>la robe de chambre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shirt</td>
<td>la chemise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shoes</td>
<td>les chaussures (f.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shorts</td>
<td>le short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skirt</td>
<td>la jupe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sneakers</td>
<td>les baskets (f.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>socks</td>
<td>les chaussettes (f.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sports coat</td>
<td>la veste</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
stockings  les bas (m.)
suit  le complet, le costume, le tailleur
tie  la cravate
T-shirt  le tee-shirt
umbrella  le parapluie
undershirt  le maillot de corps
underwear  les sous-vêtements (m.)

If you are looking for a particular department in a store, use the phrase
le rayon de (des) . . . : Où est le rayon des vêtements pour hommes (femmes)? (Where is the men's [women's] clothing department?)

Then tell the salesperson what you are looking for:
I'm looking for . . .  Je cherche . . .
I need . . .  Il me faut . . .
I would like . . .  Je voudrais . . .

SELECTING SIZES AND GETTING ALTERATIONS

Sizes
You will be asked your size as follows:

What is your size (clothing)?  Quelle est votre taille?
What is your size (shoes)?  Quelle est votre pointure?

To give an appropriate answer, you could say one of the following:

I wear . . .  small  medium  large
Je porte du . . .  petit  moyen  grand
My size is . . .  small  medium  large
Ma taille est . . .  petite  moyenne  grande

Or give the number of your size: Je porte du trente-huit. (I wear size thirty-eight.) For shoe sizes you would say: Je chausse du . . . + size. (I wear shoe size . . . .) The following table gives the conversion for American sizes to continental sizes.
Women's Shoes
American 5–5½ 6–6½ 7–7½ 8–8½ 9–9½ 10–10½
Continental 36 37 38 39 40 41

Women's Dresses and Suits
American 0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18
Continental 28 30 32 34 36 38 40 42 44 46

Men's Shoes
American 7 7½ 8 8½ 9–9½ 10–10½ 11–11½
Continental 39 40 41 42 43 44 45

Men's Shirts
American 14 14½ 15 15½ 16 16½ 17 17½
Continental 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43

Men's Suits
American 34 36 38 40 42 44 46 48
Continental 44 46 48 50 52 54 56 58

If the item you select is too small or too large, you can ask for the appropriate size as follows:

I would like the next larger size.  Je voudrais la taille au dessus.
I would like the next smaller size.  Je voudrais la taille en dessous.

Alterations
There might be times when you buy something and need to have it altered or need a repair to the clothing you have. You will have to find a tailor (un tailleur) or a shoemaker (un cordonnier) who can help you. The words below will help you describe the problem and the parts of the garment in need of servicing. An appropriate way to begin your conversation is: Pourriez-vous retoucher (réparer) ceci/ce/cette . . . ? (Could you please alter [repair] this . . . ?)

cuff (pants)  ce revers
heel  ce talon
hem  cet ourlet (m.)
lining  c’est doublure
pleat  c’est pli
pocket  c’est poche
sleeve  c’est manche
waist  c’est taille, c’est ceinture
zipper  c’est fermeture-éclair

If you need a dressing room to change your clothes, ask: Où est la cabine d’essayage? (Where is the dressing room?)

PROBLEMS
To explain a problem to a salesperson or a tailor, you say:

I don’t like it. Ça ne me plaît pas.
It doesn’t suit (fit) me Ça ne me va pas.

And then give your reasons:

. . . is too . . .  . . . est trop . . .
. . . are too . . .  . . . sont trop . . .

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>adjective</th>
<th>large(s)</th>
<th>short</th>
<th>court(e)(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>baggy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>long</td>
<td>long(ue)(s)</td>
<td>small</td>
<td>petit(e)(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loose</td>
<td>ample(s)</td>
<td>tight</td>
<td>serré(e)(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>narrow</td>
<td>étroit(e)(s)</td>
<td>wide</td>
<td>large(s)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you’re still not satisfied, ask or say:

Do you have anything . . . ? Avez-vous quelque chose . . . ?
Show me something . . . Montrez-moi quelque chose . . .

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>adjective</th>
<th>de moins cher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>less expensive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more expensive</td>
<td>de plus cher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smaller</td>
<td>de plus petit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>larger</td>
<td>de plus grand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shorter</td>
<td>de plus court</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When your clothing has been adjusted to your liking, you might respond:

I like it. Ça me plaît.
It fits me perfectly. Ça me va à la perfection.
It suits (fits) me. Ça me va.
It's nice. C'est agréable.

COLORS
To describe your color preferences, use the colors listed:

beige               orange    orange
black               noir(e)  pink    rose
blue                 bleu(e)  purple  mauve
brown                brun(e)  red     rouge
grey                gris(e)  white   blanc(he)
green               vert(e)  yellow  jaune
navy                 bleu marine

To specify a color as light, add the word clair: vert clair (light green). The exception to this rule is “light blue,” which is bleu ciel. To specify a color as dark, add the word foncé: bleu foncé (dark blue).

To express your color preference, use the definite article le:

What color do you prefer? Quelle couleur préférez-vous?
I prefer navy blue. Je préfère le bleu marine.

To express in what color you would like to have a garment, use the preposition en before the name of the color: Vous voulez la chemise en quelle couleur? (What color shirt do you want?)

I want it in blue. Je la veux en bleu.
I want the blue one. Je veux la bleue.
The definite article can be used as a noun as follows: le (la, l’, les) + adjective of color, size, or nationality: *la cravate bleue* (the blue tie), *la bleue* (the blue one).

Remember to have the proper agreement of the French adjective and to put it in its proper place:

- a white sweater: *un pull blanc*
- a white dress: *une robe blanche*
- white sweaters: *des pulls blancs*
- white dresses: *des robes blanches*

**FABRICS**

Tell your salesperson if you are interested in a certain fabric. Consult the list below for popular materials (*les tissus*). Use the preposition *en* to express that an item of clothing is made out of a certain material: *Je voudrais une robe en soie.* (I’d like a silk dress.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cotton</td>
<td>le coton</td>
<td>polyester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>denim</td>
<td>le jean</td>
<td>silk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leather</td>
<td>le cuir</td>
<td>suede</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>linen</td>
<td>le lin</td>
<td>wool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nylon</td>
<td>le nylon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PATTERNS**

When you’re selecting a garment, the pattern can make a difference in how you look. Use phrases below to select what will be best for you: *Je cherche quelque chose . . .* (I’m looking for something . . .):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pattern</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>checked</td>
<td>à carreaux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in a solid color</td>
<td>en couleur unie, uni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in plaid</td>
<td>écossais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>striped</td>
<td>à rayures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with polka dots</td>
<td>à pois</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SALES
If you’re interested in purchasing something on sale, ask:

Are there . . . ?  Il y a/Y a-t-il . . . ?

discounts  des rabais
price reductions  des réductions
sales  des soldes

MAKING A PURCHASE
Don’t forget to ask for the price:

How much is it?  Ça coûte combien?
What is the price?  Quel est le prix?

VARIABLE DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS
The demonstrative pronouns below can help you point out exactly what you want or need without having to give an extensive description.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>FEMININE</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singular</td>
<td>celui</td>
<td>celle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plural</td>
<td>ceux</td>
<td>celles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note the following about demonstrative pronouns, which cannot be used alone:

• Demonstrative pronouns agree with the nouns to which they refer:
  
  I prefer this coat to Roger’s [coat].  Je préfère ce manteau à celui de Roger.
  
  These boots resemble the ones [boots] I just bought.  Ces bottes ressemblent à celles que je viens d’acheter.

• Demonstrative pronouns can be followed by the tags -ci, which indicates proximity to the speaker (this one, these ones, the latter) and -là, which recognizes distance from the speaker (that one, those ones, the former):
  
  Which pair of pants do you prefer?  Quel pantalon préférez-vous?
This one or that one?  Celui-ci ou celui-là?
Luke and Serge are salesmen.  Luc et Serge sont vendeurs.
The former is super; the latter is lazy.  Celui-là est super; celui-ci est paresseux.
• Demonstrative pronouns can be followed by a prepositional clause: 
  *Ce vendeur là-bas, c’est celui avec qui j’ai parlé.* (That salesman over 
there, he is the one with whom I spoke.)

• Demonstrative pronouns can be followed by the relative pronouns
  *qui* (subject)—the one(s) that; *que* (object)—the one(s) that; *dont*—
  the one(s) of which; and *où*—the one(s) in which, the one(s) where:

  The ones that are red are the prettiest.
  *Ceux (Celles) qui sont rouges sont les plus joli(e)s.*

  I like the one you have in your hand.
  *J’aime celui (celle) que vous avez en main.*

  That’s the one I need.
  *C’est celui (celle) dont j’ai besoin.*

  To which store are you going? —To the one with sales.
  *À quel magasin vas-tu? —À celui où il y a des soldes.*

• Demonstrative pronouns used with *de* show possession: *Donne-moi mon blouson et celui de Patrick.* (Give me my jacket and Patrick’s.)

• When the demonstrative pronoun is followed by a relative pronoun,
  the relative pronoun may be the object of a preposition: *J’aime toutes mes amies, mais Christine est celle avec qui je m’amuse le plus.* (I like all of my girlfriends, but Christine is the one with whom I have the most fun.)

---

**TIME’S UP!**

---

Try to complete this exercise without looking back in the lesson:

1. Tell someone his suit fits him perfectly.
2. Ask for the children’s department.
3. Say you wear a large size.
4. Tell your shoe size in the metric system.
5. Ask to have your pants altered.
6. Ask the salesperson if you can see something else.
7. Ask the salesperson to show you a red-and-white-checked cotton shirt.
8. Ask if there are any sales today.
9. You are speaking about boots. Say those are the ones you prefer.
10. Ask how much the black belt costs.
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Taking Care of Travel Needs

MASTER THESE SKILLS

- Navigating the airport
- Passing through customs and getting to the train station
- Traveling by car
- Dealing with problems on the road
- Dealing with an accident

In this chapter you’ll learn how to get around the airport and then around the country by train and by car. You’ll also learn how to use the passive voice.
AT THE AIRPORT
Although there are plenty of signs pointing you in various directions in an airport, it’s a good idea to become acquainted with the words that may be unfamiliar to you. The terms you need in order to get around an airport quickly and efficiently are listed below. To get your bearings, start with this expression: *Où se trouve(nt) . . . ?* (Where is/are [the] . . . ?)

- **airline** la ligne aérienne
- **airline terminal** l’aérogar (f.), le terminal
- **airport** l’aéroport (m.)
- **arrival** l’arrivée (f.)
- **baggage claim area** les bagages (m.)
- **bathrooms** les toilettes (f.)
- **car rental** la location de voitures
- **counter** le comptoir
- **customs** la douane
- **departure** le départ
- **entrance** l’entrée (f.)
- **exit** la sortie
- **flight** le vol
- **domestic** intérieur
- **international** international
- **gate** la porte
- **information** les renseignements (m.)
- **money exchange** le bureau de change
- **passport control** le contrôle des passeports
- **porter** le porteur
- **security check** le contrôle de sécurité
- **suitcase** la valise
- **taxi** le taxi (m.)
- **ticket** le billet, le ticket
To express that you are flying standby, say: *j'ai un billet sans garantie.* (I have a stand-by ticket.) Some key questions you may want to ask include:

- **Is the flight late in arriving (departing)?**  
  Est-ce que le vol va arriver (partir) en retard?
- **Where does this flight originate?**  
  Ce vol est en provenance d'où?
- **Is the flight canceled?**  
  Est-ce que le vol est annulé?
- **What time is takeoff?**  
  À quelle heure est le décollage?
- **Is the flight full?**  
  Il y a des places libres?/
  Est-ce que le vol est complet?
- **Are there any stopovers? Where?**  
  On fait escale? Où?
- **What cities does this airline serve?**  
  Quelles villes est-ce que cette ligne dessert?

You should also familiarize yourself with the words and phrases describing the inside of the plane. You can never tell when the terms below will come in handy:

- **airplane**  
  l’avion (m.)
- **aisle**  
  le couloir
- **(on the) aisle**  
  côté couloir
- **baggage compartment**  
  le compartiment à bagages
- **carry-on luggage**  
  le bagage à main
- **crew**  
  l’équipage (m.)
- **emergency exit**  
  la sortie (l’issue) de secours
- **life vest**  
  le gilet de sauvetage
- **meal**  
  le repas
- **oxygen mask**  
  le masque à oxygène
- **pillow**  
  l’oreiller (m.)
- **row**  
  le rang
- **seat**  
  la place, le siège
- **seat belt**  
  la ceinture de sécurité
- **(by the) window**  
  côté fenêtre
AT THE TRAIN STATION
The table below gives you the words you need to know for train travel:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>compartment</td>
<td>le compartiment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smoking (car)</td>
<td>fumeurs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nonsmoking (car)</td>
<td>non-fumeurs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dining car</td>
<td>le wagon-restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>platform</td>
<td>le quai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>schedule</td>
<td>l'horaire (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>station</td>
<td>la gare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ticket</td>
<td>le billet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>first class</td>
<td>de première classe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>second class</td>
<td>de deuxième classe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>one way</td>
<td>un aller simple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>round-trip</td>
<td>un aller et retour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TRAVEL BY CAR
Many tourists opt to see the countryside and discover out-of-the-way places by renting a car at a local car agency (une location de voitures). Use the phrases below if this is your plan:

I would like to rent a . . . (make of car).     Je voudrais louer une . . .
I prefer automatic transmission.               Je préfère une transmission automatique.
How much does it cost per day (per week) (per kilometer)? Quel est le tarif à la journée (à la semaine) (au kilomètre)?
How much is the insurance?                      Quel est le montant de l’assurance?
Is the mileage included?                        Le kilométrage est compris?
Do you accept credit cards?                     Acceptez-vous les cartes de crédit?
Which ones?                                     Lesquelles?

The Car's Exterior and Interior
Familiarize yourself with the following words in case you have to describe a problem with the car’s exterior:
Once you’ve made sure that everything on the outside is in good working order, check the car’s interior and refer to any problems using this list of words:

- accelerator: l’accélérateur (m.)
- air bag: le coussin gonflable, l’air bag (m.)
- brakes: les freins (m.)
- clutch pedal: la pédale d’embrayage
- directional signal: le clignotant
- glove compartment: la boîte à gants
- horn: le klaxon
- ignition: l’allumage (m.)
- radio: la radio
- steering wheel: le volant
**Filling Up**
To get your gas tank filled with the proper gas, say:

- Fill it up . . .
  - Faites le plein . . .
- with regular
  - d’ordinaire
- with super
  - de super
- with unleaded
  - de sans plomb
- with diesel
  - de diesel

**Problems on the Road**
Here are some phrases you will need if you have car problems:

- Could you help me, please?  
  - Pourriez-vous m’aider, s’il vous plaît?
- The car has broken down.  
  - La voiture est en panne.
- Where is the nearest service station?  
  - Où est la station-service la plus proche?
- . . . doesn’t (don’t) work.  
  - . . . ne fonctionne(nt) [marche(nt)] pas.
- Please check . . .  
  - Veuillez vérifier . . .
- The car has overheated.  
  - La voiture a surchauffé.
- There’s a flat tire.  
  - Il y a un pneu crevé.
- The battery is dead.  
  - La batterie est déchargée.
- There is a leak.  
  - Il y a une fuite.
- Can you fix it (immediately)?  
  - Pouvez-vous la réparer (tout de suite)?
- When will it be ready?  
  - Quand sera-t-elle prête?

**Accidents**
If you are a pedestrian (*un piéton*) and you witness or are involved in an accident (*un accident*), you will need the verbs below to have a conversation with a police officer (*un gendarme*):

- to collide  
  - tamponner
- to crash against  
  - s’écraser contre
- to drive  
  - conduire, rouler
- to hit  
  - heurter
to hurt  faire mal à
to park  stationner, se garer
to pass  doubler
to run a light  brûler un feu
to run over  écraser
to signal  signaler
to slow down  ralentir
to turn  tourner
to yield  céder

Should you need to refer to the parts of the road, use these words and expressions:
crosswalk  le passage clouté
entrance  l’entrée (f.)
exit  la sortie
intersection  le carrefour
island  l’îlot (m.)
lane  la voie

THE PASSIVE VOICE
In the active voice, the subject generally performs the action. In the passive voice, the subject is acted upon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVE</th>
<th>PASSIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The car knocked her down.</td>
<td>She was knocked down by a car.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La voiture l’a renversée.</td>
<td>Elle a été renversée par une voiture.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The passive construction in French resembles English: subject + form of être + past participle + par + agent (doer), if mentioned:

The man is wounded.  L’homme est blessé.
The car was driven by that woman.  La voiture était conduite par cette femme.
The truck had been hit.  Le camion avait été heurté.
The driver will be arrested.  Le conducteur sera arrêté.
In the passive, because the past participle is conjugated with être, it agrees in number and gender with the subject: Les fleurs ont été écrasées. (The flowers were run over.)

You may substitute the following constructions for the passive, because the passive is used less frequently in French than in English:

• Use the active construction on (one, you, they) + the third person singular of the verb: Ici on parle français. (French is spoken here.)
• A reflexive construction is sometimes used: Cela ne se fait pas. (That is not done.)

TIME’S UP!

Try to accomplish the following without looking back:

1. Ask where you can find a money exchange.
2. Say you are looking for a car rental.
3. Ask if your flight is canceled.
4. Say you need a round-trip ticket.
5. Tell what car you’d like to rent.
6. Say that your car has broken down.
7. Ask for the nearest service station.
8. Ask to have your car filled with regular gas.
9. Say that one car crashed into another.
10. Say that a dog was hit by a car.
Master These Skills

- Attending to your banking needs
- Playing the stock market
- Using present and perfect participles
- Using indefinite pronouns

In this chapter you’ll learn the vocabulary you need to conduct banking and stock market transactions. You will also learn how to use present and perfect participles and indefinite pronouns.
AT THE BANK
There are any number of reasons to go to a bank (une banque) in a foreign country. As a tourist, you may simply want to exchange money. For those who conduct business, however, you will have deposits and withdrawals to make. And for the adventurous few, the purchase of vacation or retirement property requires a knowledge of more sophisticated banking terms.

The following is a list of banking expressions that could prove useful:

- What are the banking hours? Quelles sont les heures d'ouverture?
- What is today's exchange rate? Quel est le cours du change aujourd'hui?
- Do you have an automatic teller machine? Avez-vous un distributeur (guichet) automatique de billets?
- How does one use it? Comment s'en sert-on?
- Can I take out money twenty-four hours a day? Puis-je faire des retraits d'argent vingt-quatre heures sur vingt-quatre?
- What is the transaction fee? Quel est le coût de la transaction?
- Is there a financial assistant who can help me? Y a-t-il un conseiller financier qui puisse m'aider?
- I would like . . . Je voudrais . . .

  - to make a deposit faire un dépôt (un versement)
  - to make a withdrawal faire un retrait
  - to make a payment faire un paiement (un versement)
  - to cash a check toucher un chèque
  - to change some money changer de l’argent

Banking Terms
If your financial needs are more specific, consult the list below for the necessary banking terms:

- account le compte
- automatic un distributeur automatique
- teller machine de billets
- balance le solde
- bank la banque
The words and phrases in the following list will be of use and interest to you if you like to dabble in foreign markets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bond</td>
<td>l’obligation (f.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>broker’s fee</td>
<td>la commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>business</td>
<td>l’entreprise (f.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>capital</td>
<td>le capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dividend</td>
<td>le dividende</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE STOCK MARKET

The words and phrases in the following list will be of use and interest to you if you like to dabble in foreign markets:
You’re in the market. You watch the ticker tape every day and often place a call to your broker. Someday you may need these useful stock phrases:

- Are my stocks going up? Mes actions montent-elles?
- Are my stocks going down? Mes actions baissent-elles?
- What is the price per share? Quel est le prix de l’action?
- What is the commission rate? Quel est le taux de commission?
- What is the status of my account? Où en est mon compte?
- Are my investments secure? Y a-t-il une garantie de sécurité pour mes placements?

**PRESENT PARTICIPLES**

A present participle in English is an adjective that ends in *-ing*: He had a growing interest in the market. In this example *growing* modifies *interest*. Comparatively, a gerund in English is a noun that ends in *-ing*: Choosing good stocks is difficult. This time *choosing* is the subject of the sentence. Present participles are used much less frequently in French than in English, and gerunds are translated into infinitives.
Cashing this check is impossible. Toucher ce chèque est impossible.

Except for three irregular verbs, the present participle of all French verbs is formed by replacing the -ons for the nous form of the present tense with -ant, the English equivalent of -ing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFINITIVE</th>
<th>NOUS FORM</th>
<th>PRESENT PARTICIPLE</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>travailler</td>
<td>travaillons</td>
<td>travaillant</td>
<td>working</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>choisir</td>
<td>choisissons</td>
<td>choisissant</td>
<td>choosing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vendre</td>
<td>vendons</td>
<td>vendant</td>
<td>selling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>changer</td>
<td>changeons</td>
<td>changeant</td>
<td>changing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>annoncer</td>
<td>annonçons</td>
<td>annonçant</td>
<td>announcing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acheter</td>
<td>achetons</td>
<td>achetant</td>
<td>buying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appeler</td>
<td>appelons</td>
<td>appelant</td>
<td>calling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>payer</td>
<td>payons</td>
<td>payant</td>
<td>paying</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The three irregular present participles are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFINITIVE</th>
<th>PRESENT PARTICIPLE</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>avoir</td>
<td>ayant</td>
<td>having</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>être</td>
<td>étant</td>
<td>being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>savoir</td>
<td>sachant</td>
<td>knowing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Present participles may be used in the following ways:

- As adjectives:
  
  Mr. Legrand sold a charming house. M. Legrand a vendu une maison charmante.

  She made an amazing transaction. Elle a fait une transaction étonnante.

- After the preposition en, to express “while,” “by,” or “upon”:

  While going to the bank, he met his friend. En allant à la banque, il a rencontré son ami.

  You learn by studying. On apprend en étudiant.
Upon arriving home, I counted my money.  
En rentrant à la maison, j’ai compté mon argent.

* When *en* is omitted, as a matter of preference:

Wanting to save money, I opened a bank account.  
Voulant épargner de l’argent, j’ai ouvert un compte.

You left, forgetting your pen.  
Vous êtes parti, oubliant votre stylo.

* In place of a relative clause (although this is done infrequently):

A woman wearing a red dress is looking for a teller.  
Une femme portant (qui porte) une robe rouge cherche un caissier.

Present participles may be used as adjectives and usually follow the noun or pronoun they modify, as well as agree with them in number and gender: *Il a fait des retraits surprenants.* (He made surprising withdrawals.)

The present participle is invariable when it serves a verbal function: *Elle est partie, riant.* (She left, laughing.)

**PERFECT PARTICIPLES**

The perfect participle is formed with the present participle of the appropriate helping verb and the past participle and is used to show that one action took place before another:

Having sold his stocks, he bought a new car.  
Ayant vendu ses titres, il a acheté une nouvelle voiture.

Having gone to the bank early, they avoided long lines.  
Étant allés à la banque tôt, ils ont évité de longues files.

**USING INDEFINITE PRONOUNS**

The indefinite pronouns listed below refer to nonspecific persons or things. The indefinite pronouns with an asterisk (*) can also serve as pronouns or adjectives.

* aucun(e) any, no one, none  
* autre(s) other one(s)  
* certain(e)(s) certain one(s), some  
chacun(e) each one, every one  
* le/la/les même(s) the same one(s)
n’importe lequel | any (one)
n’importe qui | anyone
n’importe quoi | anything
on | one, we, you, they, people
*plusieurs | several
quelque chose | something
quelques-un(e)s | some, a few
quelqu’un | someone
quiconque | whoever
qui que ce soit | anyone at all
quoi que ce soit | anything at all
rien | nothing
*tous, toutes | all
tout | all, everything, anything

Il parlerait à n’importe qui. | He’d speak to anyone.
Quelqu’un est arrivé. | Someone has arrived.
Je ferai n’importe quoi. | I’ll do anything.
Je ne ferai rien. | I won’t do anything.

Note the special uses of the following:

**Aucun(e)**
Pronoun: As a pronoun, aucun(e) may be followed by de + a noun or pronoun: Aucune d’elles n’est arrivée. (None of them arrived.)

Adjective: As an adjective, aucun(e) agrees with the noun it modifies: Il gagnera de l’argent sans aucun doute. (He’ll make money without a doubt.)

**Autre(s)**
Pronoun: As a pronoun, autre is preceded by an article: Je vais téléphoner aux autres. (I’m going to call the others.)

Adjective: As an adjective, autre precedes the noun it describes. It may be preceded by a definite or indefinite article: Il achètera d’autres titres. (He’ll buy other stocks.)
Autre is used in the following expressions. Note that the expressions with an asterisk (*) are for reciprocal actions and are generally used with reflexive verbs:

* l’un(e) l’autre  
  each other (of two)

* les un(e)s les autres  
  one another (more than two)

l’un(e) et l’autre  
  both, both of them

l’un(e) ou l’autre  
  either one

ni l’un(e) ni l’autre  
  neither one

l’un(e) à l’autre  
  to each other

l’un(e) pour l’autre  
  for each other, one for the other

Ils ne se parlent pas l’un à l’autre.  
  They don’t speak to each other.

Elles travaillent les unes pour les autres.  
  They work for each other.

Encore un autre means “an additional”: Il a déjà un compte, mais il va en ouvrir encore un autre. (He already has an account, but he will open another one.)

Certain(e)s
Pronoun: As a pronoun, certain(e)s is used only in the plural. The phrase d’entre eux (elles) (of them) may be added for emphasis: Certaines (d’entre elles) n’ont pas encore fini. (Some [of them] haven’t finished yet.)

Plusieurs
Pronoun: As a pronoun, plusieurs may also be followed by d’entre eux (elles): Plusieurs (d’entre eux) sont arrivés en retard. (Several of them arrived late.)

Quelque Chose, Rien
Quelque chose and rien are pronouns that take de before an adjective:
Je cherche quelque chose de spécial. (I’m looking for something special.)
Je ne cherche rien de spécial. (I’m not looking for anything special.)
Some common expressions with *tout* are:

- *en tout cas* — in any case
- *pas du tout* — not at all
- *tout à coup* — all of a sudden
- *tout à fait* — quite, entirely
- *tout à l’heure* — a little while ago, in a little while, soon
- *tout de même* — nevertheless
- *tous/toutes (les) deux* — both of them
- *tout le monde* — everybody
- *tout le temps* — all the time

Je le ferai tout à l’heure. I’ll do it in a little while.

Tout le monde est heureux. Everybody is happy.

The word *tout* is sometimes used with the preposition *en* for emphasis:

*Tout en connaissant ma situation, il ne m’a pas offert son aide.*

(Even though he knew my situation, he didn’t offer me his help.)

### INDEFINITES AS ADVERBS

Indefinite pronouns can also function as adverbs:

- *n’importe où* — anywhere, no matter where
- *n’importe quand* — anytime, no matter when
- *n’importe quel(le)(s)* — any, any . . . at all, whatever

J’irai *n’importe où* n’importe quand. I’ll go anywhere anytime.

Je prendrai *n’importe quel vol.* I’ll take any flight.
TIME'S UP!

Try to perform the following tasks without looking back in the lesson:

1. Say that you have to go to the bank.
2. Say that you would like to cash some traveler's checks.
3. Ask if they have an automated teller machine (ATM).
4. Say that you'd like to buy some stocks.
5. Ask if there's a financial assistant to help you.
6. Say that one learns by working.
7. Say that someone left smiling.
8. Ask someone if he/she is looking for something.
9. Say: “They love each other.”
10. Say that you are quite happy.
The Language of Business

MASTER THESE SKILLS

- Fulfilling your stationery, photocopying, and faxing needs
- Fulfilling your computer needs
- Conducting business
- Using prepositions before infinitives

In this lesson you’ll learn how to manage in a business setting, using faxes, photocopiers, and computers. You’ll also learn about verbs that need and don’t need prepositions before other verbs.
STATIONERY NEEDS
The list below presents the necessary stationery supplies that can be purchased à la papeterie (at the stationery store). You might begin by saying: Où puis-je trouver . . . ? (Where can I find [a/an] . . . ?)

- ballpoint pen: un stylo (à bille)
- calculator: une calculatrice
- envelopes: des enveloppes (f.)
- eraser: une gomme
- folder: une chemise
- paper: du papier
- paper clips: des trombones (f.)
- pencils: des crayons (m.)
- pencil sharpener: un taille-crayon
- ruler: une règle
- scotch tape: du scotch
- stapler: une agrafeuse
- staples: des agrafes (f.)
- stationery: du papier à lettres

PHOTOCOPIES
Many stationery stores have photocopieurs (m.) or copieurs (m.) available to provide photocopying services, often at reasonable prices, to students, travelers, and businesspeople on the go. The phrases below will help you get the copy of the document, paper, or receipt you need:

- I would like to make a photocopy of this paper (this document). Je voudrais faire une photocopie de ce papier (ce document).
- I would like to have a photocopy of this paper (this document). Je voudrais faire faire une photocopie de ce papier (ce document).
- What is the cost per page? Quel est le prix de la page?
- Can you enlarge it (by 50 percent)? Pouvez-vous l’agrandir (de cinquante pour cent)?
Can you reduce it (by 25 percent)?  Pouvez-vous le réduire (de vingt-cinq pour cent)?
Can you make a color copy?  Pouvez-vous faire une copie en couleurs?

**FAXES**
Being able to send a fax is a convenient service that allows for efficient transmittal and receipt of important information. Therefore, fax service has become almost indispensable. The phrases below will help you with your fax needs:

- Do you have a fax machine?  Avez-vous un fax?
- What is your fax number?  Quel est votre numéro de fax?
- I’d like to send a fax.  Je voudrais envoyer un fax.
- May I fax this, please?  Puis-je envoyer ce fax, s’il vous plaît?
- May I fax this letter (document) to you?  Puis-je vous faxer cette lettre (ce document)?
- Fax it to me.  Faxez-le moi.
- I didn’t get your fax.  Je n’ai pas reçu votre fax.
- Did you receive my fax?  Avez-vous reçu mon fax?
- Your fax is illegible.  Votre fax n’est pas lisible.
- Please send it again.  Veuillez le faxer de nouveau.

**COMPUTERS**
A working knowledge of computers is a must in today’s world. The phrases below will get you started if you need basic computer information from another individual. The following computer terms are essential:

- to computerize  informatiser
- computer science  l’informatique (f.)
- computer scientist  l’informaticien(ne)
- What kind of computer do you have?  Quel système (type, genre) d’ordinateur avez-vous?
- What operating system are you using?  Quel système d’exploitation employez-vous?
- What word processing program are you using?  Quel traitement de texte employez-vous?
What spreadsheet program are you using?  
Quel tableur employez-vous?

What is your e-mail address?  
Quelle est votre adresse e-mail/de courrier électronique?

The following list gives you the terms and phrases you need to speak about your computer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cartridge</td>
<td>la cartouche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-ROM disc</td>
<td>le disque optique numérique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) click</td>
<td>cliquer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPU</td>
<td>l’unité (f.) centrale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cursor</td>
<td>le curseur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>database</td>
<td>la base de données</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>desktop computer</td>
<td>l’ordinateur (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disk drive</td>
<td>le lecteur de disquettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diskette</td>
<td>la disquette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) download</td>
<td>télécharger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e-mail</td>
<td>la messagerie, le courrier électronique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>file</td>
<td>le fichier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>function key</td>
<td>la touche de fonction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hard disk</td>
<td>le disque dur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hardware</td>
<td>le matériel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) insert</td>
<td>introduire, insérer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>joystick</td>
<td>la manette de jeux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>key</td>
<td>la touche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keyboard</td>
<td>le clavier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laptop computer</td>
<td>l’ordinateur (m.) portable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laser/ink jet</td>
<td>laser/jet d’encre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>memory</td>
<td>la mémoire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>modem</td>
<td>le modem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mouse</td>
<td>la souris</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONDUCTING BUSINESS
Conducting business in a professional manner includes finding out information about shipping and making a satisfactory deal.

Deals and Discounts
The phrases below will help you bargain:

- Our prices are very competitive. Nos prix sont très compétitifs.
- You will find our merchandise to be high quality. Vous trouverez notre marchandise de très bonne qualité.
- Is there anything else I can do for you? Puis-je faire quelque chose d’autre pour vous?
- It’s a pleasure doing business with you. C’est un plaisir de travailler avec vous.
- It’s a pleasure to serve you. C’est un plaisir de vous servir.

The following terms are for those readers who are serious about conducting business in a French-speaking country:

- assets l’actif (m.)
- (to) authorize autoriser
- bankruptcy la faillite
- bill la facture
- bill of sale la lettre de vente
- business les affaires (f.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(to) buy</td>
<td>acheter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company</td>
<td>l’entreprise (f.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>consumer</td>
<td>le consommateur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contract</td>
<td>le contrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit</td>
<td>le crédit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>debit</td>
<td>le débit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>discount</td>
<td>la remise, la réduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expenses</td>
<td>les frais (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) export</td>
<td>exporter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foreign trade</td>
<td>le commerce extérieur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>goods</td>
<td>les produits (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) import</td>
<td>importer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insurance</td>
<td>l’assurance (f.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>invoice</td>
<td>la facture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>job</td>
<td>le travail, l’emploi (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lawyer</td>
<td>l’avocat (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liabilities</td>
<td>le passif</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manager</td>
<td>le gérant, le directeur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>merchandise</td>
<td>la marchandise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>office</td>
<td>le bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>overhead expenses</td>
<td>les frais (m.) généraux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>owner</td>
<td>le/la propriétaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>partner</td>
<td>l’associé (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>payment</td>
<td>le versement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>product</td>
<td>le produit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>property</td>
<td>la propriété</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>purchase</td>
<td>l’achat (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>retailer</td>
<td>le détaillant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>running expenses</td>
<td>les frais (m.) d’exploitation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
salary le salaire
(to) sell vendre
selling price le prix de vente
shipment l’expédition (f.)
shipper l’expéditeur (m.)
tax l’impôt (m.)
tax-exempt exonéré d’impôts
union le syndicat
wholesaler le grossiste
(to) yield a profit produire un bénéfice

Use the following terms to refer to businesspeople:

a businessman un homme d’affaires
a businesswoman une femme d’affaires

**PREPOSITIONS BEFORE INFINITIVES**

In French, the infinitive is the verb form that normally follows a preposition.

He succeeds in speaking French. Il réussit à parler français.
He is happy to find a job. Il est content de trouver du travail.
He acts without thinking. Il agit sans réfléchir.

**Verbs Requiring À**

Listed below are some of the more common verbs requiring à before the infinitive:

begin commencer à/se mettre à
encourage encourager à
force forcer à
get used to s’habituer à
have a good time s’amuser à
help aider à
invite inviter à
learn apprendre à
succeed réussir à

He has a good time Il s'amuse à surfer
surfing the Internet. sur l'Internet.

**Verbs Requiring De**

Some of the more common verbs requiring *de* before the infinitive are listed below.

- accept accepter *de*
- avoid éviter *de*
- choose choisir *de*
- decide décider *de*
- deserve mériter *de*
- do without se passer *de*
- dream rêver *de*
- finish finir *de*
- have just venir *de*
- hurry se dépêcher *de*
- laugh at rire *de*
- refuse refuser *de*
- regret regretter *de*
- stop s'arrêter *de*
- take care of s'occuper *de*
- try essayer *de*

He deserves to get Il mérite de recevoir une
a raise. augmentation.

The following prepositions can be used before infinitives:

- in order to afin *de*
- instead of au lieu *de*
He rests instead of working. Il se repose au lieu de travailler.
She phones before sending a fax. Elle téléphone avant d’envoyer un fax.

Verbs Used Without a Preposition
The following verbs are used without a preposition before the infinitive:

- allow laisser
- be able to pouvoir
- hate détester
- have to devoir
- hope espérer
- intend compter
- know (how) savoir
- like aimer
- prefer aimer mieux, préférer
- want, wish vouloir, désirer

The boss allows them to leave. Le patron les laisse partir.
She must buy a computer. Elle doit acheter un ordinateur.
TIME’S UP!

Try not to look back at the tables in this chapter and fill in a preposition, if needed:

1. Je l’aide ___ finir son travail.
2. Il m’empêche ___ parler.
4. Il va continuer ___ jouer avec l’ordinateur.
5. Ils ne veulent pas ___ donner de réductions.
6. Tu as réussi ___ trouver la solution.
7. Je regrette ___ avoir parlé.
8. Essayez ___ résoudre le problème.
9. Savez-vous ___ utiliser l’Internet?
10. Il rêve ___ devenir informaticien.
The Final Countdown

Here’s your final opportunity to see if you’ve mastered enough French to get by on your own. Respond to each situation as if you were in a French-speaking country.
1. You are at a party and strike up a conversation with an interesting person. What information do you give about yourself?

2. You are talking to someone who is speaking too fast. What might you say?

3. You call a friend on the phone. Someone else answers. How do you respond?

4. You want to invite a friend to go to a museum with you. What suggestions would you make?

5. You are lost in the streets of Montreal. You stop a passerby and ask for directions. What might you ask?

6. You don’t like your hotel room. Tell this to the concierge and express why.

7. You are in a gift shop looking for a gift for a friend. Ask a salesperson for help.
8. You realize you have lost your passport. What do you say to the police officer?

9. Tell a friend about your favorite leisure activity and why you like it.

10. You are interviewing for a job in a French firm. What do you tell the head of personnel about yourself?

11. You are in a park in Haiti. Persuade some acquaintances to engage in a sport.

12. You are in a clothing store. Tell the salesperson what you are looking for.

13. You are going to the movies with a friend. You want to see a spy movie, but your friend wants to see a comedy. Persuade your friend to see the spy movie.

14. You are at the airport and have learned that your flight is delayed. What do you say to the airline clerk?
15. You want to change your money into French currency. What do you say to the bank teller?

__________________________________________

16. A customs officer at the airport asks what you have purchased on your trip. How do you respond?

__________________________________________

17. You are in a restaurant. Tell the waiter what you want for dinner.

__________________________________________

18. A friend has invited you to the opera. Express your feelings about going.

__________________________________________

19. You want to make a dinner reservation at a fine restaurant. What do you say to the person answering the phone?

__________________________________________

20. You rented a car and are having problems with it. What do you say to the rental agent?

__________________________________________

21. You want to go to a concert. What information do you ask for on the phone?

__________________________________________
22. You have an appointment to meet someone. When you realize you will be late, you phone your acquaintance. What do you say?

________________________________________

23. You don’t feel well. What do you tell the doctor?

________________________________________

24. Your friend has a cousin for you to meet. What questions do you ask about this person?

________________________________________

293
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Since there is almost always more than one way to say something, the statements and questions given as responses are just suggestions.
ANSWER KEY

24:00

1. bohN-zhoor zhuh mah-pehl zhew-lyaN ay-reek kohN-sahN koh-mahN voo zah-play-voo
2. zhuh pahrl uhN puh luh frahN-seh
3. ehks-kew-zay-mwah zhuh nuh kohN-prahN pah vuh-yay pahr-lay plew lahNt-mahN
4. kehs-kuh voo zah-vay dee ray-pay-tay seel voo pleh
5. zhuh voo-dreh shahN-zhay may doh-lahr ah-may-ree-kaN ahN new-ro
6. pahr-dohN oo eh lahN-bah-sahd ah-may-ree-kehn
7. zhuh nuh muh sahN pah byaN oo suh troov luh kah-bee-neh dew dohk-tuhr luh plew prohsh
8. zhuh voo zahN pree poo-ryay voo meh-day zhay pehr-dew uhN doh-kew-mahN taN-pohr-tahN
9. kohN-byaN koot suh zhoh-lee pahN-tah-lohN bruhN ay say shuh-meez roozh
10. zhay buh-zwaN dewn kwee-yehr dewn foor-sheht ay duhN koo-to mehr-see bo-koo

23:00

Part I
1. l’obstacle (m.)
2. cet appartement
3. une discussion
4. la personne
5. ce journal

Part II
6. l’amie
7. ce professeur
8. la musicienne
9. une enfant
10. cette étudiante

22:00

1. vais
2. est
3. avons
4. voulons
5. achète
6. faisons
7. célébrons
8. mangeons
9. finissons
10. commençons

21:00
1. allais
2. avait
3. faisait
4. jouait
5. est resté
6. a demandé
7. voulait
8. étais
9. sommes allés
10. ai fait

20:00
1. a
2. c
3. b
4. a
5. c
6. c
7. b
8. c
9. d
10. a

19:00
1. Il pense profondément.
2. Mme Dutour est une bonne femme.
3. Ce sont des hommes loyaux.
4. Ils sont arrivés récemment.
5. Il parle doucement.
7. Je cherche un bel hôtel.
8. Elle chante brièvement.
10. Elles dansent parfaitement.

18:00

1. Bonjour, Madame.
2. Je suis enchanté(e) de faire votre connaissance.
3. Je m’appelle . . .
4. Je vais bien.
5. Je suis des États-Unis.
7. Je suis américain(e).
10. Au revoir.

17:00

1. Vous avez envie d’aller au restaurant avec moi?
2. Tu peux aller au musée avec nous?
4. Volontiers!
5. Malheureusement, je ne peux pas.
6. Je regrette, c’est impossible.
7. Je ne suis pas libre.
8. Je suis occupé(e).
9. Je n’ai pas de préférence.
10. Ça m’est égal.

16:00

2. Quelle est la date d’aujourd’hui?
3. Je suis née le onze juillet mil neuf cent quarante-sept.
4. Le musée est fermé quels jours?
5. Nous sommes en été.
6. C'est aujourd'hui le vingt juin.
7. Tu veux sortir quand?
8. Il est huit heures et demie du matin.
9. On se rejoint à quelle heure?
10. Le film commence à midi.

15:00

1. On va au restaurant?
2. Allons au zoo.
3. Où se trouve la tour Eiffel?
4. Prenez la troisième rue.
5. N'allez pas tout droit.
6. Réveille-toi tôt.
7. Allez-y.
8. C'est extra!
9. À mon avis, c'est chouette!
10. C'est la barbe.

14:00

1. Je regarde tout simplement.
2. Je voudrais acheter une voiture à ma famille.
3. Vous devez (Tu dois) écouter.
4. Vous devez (Tu dois) aller à la boulangerie.
5. Vous devriez (Tu devrais) faire les lits.
6. Vous devez (Tu dois) cinq dollars.
7. Il faut que vous fassiez (tu fasses) les courses.
8. Je veux que vous vidiez (tu vides) les ordures.
9. Je veux aller à la librairie.
10. Encore un petit effort.

13:00

1. Comment vous appelez-vous?
2. Quelle est votre adresse?
3. Quel est votre numéro de téléphone?
4. D'où êtes-vous?
5. Quel âge avez-vous?
6. On prend quel train?
ANSWER KEY

7. Lequel des films préférez-vous?
8. Qu’est-ce qu’il y a?
9. Combien coûte ce journal?
10. Je regrette mais je ne comprends pas.

12:00

1. Mais si, je veux y aller ce soir.
2. Non, merci.
3. Je ne fume jamais.
4. Je m’appelle . . .
6. Mon numéro de téléphone est . . .
8. Un voyage en France coûte deux mille dollars.
10. Un livre est sur mon bureau.

11:00

1. Pourriez-vous m’aider, s’il vous plaît?
2. À quelle heure êtes-vous ouvert?
3. Puis-je avoir un reçu?
4. Ça coûte combien un timbre pour une lettre envoyée par avion?
5. Pourriez-vous me couper les cheveux?
6. Pourriez-vous faire nettoyer à sec mon costume?
7. Pouvez-vous remplacer mon verre de contact?
8. Puis-je avoir une pellicule de trente-six, s’il vous plaît?
9. Pouvez-vous réparer ma montre?
10. Où se trouve le poste de police le plus proche?

10:00

1. Il me faut des dames.
2. Je joue aux cartes.
3. On passe quel genre de film?
4. J’ai envie de voir une comédie.
5. Ça te plairait de faire un pique-nique à la campagne?
6. Je t’aime.
7. Les cadeaux me plaisent.
8. Tu me manques.
9. Montrez-le-moi, s’il vous plaît.
10. Ça m’intéresse.

09:00

1. Ça te dit de faire de la natation?
2. Vous jouez au golf?/Vous faites du golf?
3. On va à la piscine?
4. Il me faut des patins./J’ai besoin de patins.
5. Pourriez-vous me prêter un vélo?
6. Quel temps fait-il aujourd’hui?
7. Il fait très chaud, mais cet après-midi il va faire du vent.
   Il fait soixante-huit degrés.
8. Je n’aime pas le tennis parce que c’est très fatigant.
10. Je pense qu’il fera beau.

08:00

1. Les chiens sont plus grands que les chats.
2. Le français est plus facile que les maths.
3. Ma soeur est plus grande que moi.
4. Mon fils est le meilleur joueur de volley-ball.
5. Mon mari parle plus doucement que moi.
6. Mon fils parle français le mieux de tous ses amis.
7. J’ai plus de travail que vous (toi).
8. Je cuisine aussi bien que ma soeur.
9. J’ai autant de patience que mon ami(e).
10. C’est le meilleur livre qu’on puisse acheter.

07:00

1. Avez-vous un garage?
2. Je voudrais une chambre côté mes.
3. Il me faut un oreiller.
4. Quelle chambre formidable!
5. Qu’ils entrent.
6. Je resterai à l’hôtel pourvu qu’il y ait des courts de tennis.
7. Je cherche un hôtel qui soit luxueux.
8. Il y a une personne (quelqu’un) qui parle anglais?
9. C’est la chambre que je veux.
10. J’ai tout ce dont j’ai besoin.

06:00

1. Donnez-moi cinq cents grammes de viande, s’il vous plaît.
2. Pour commencer, je prends des escargots.
4. Je le veux à point.
5. Je voudrais des profiteroles, s’il vous plaît.
6. Il me faut un autre verre parce que le mien est sale.
7. Je voudrais réserver une table sur la terrasse pour ce soir, pour quatre personnes, à neuf heures et demie.
8. Quel est le plat du jour?
10. L’addition, s’il vous plaît.

05:00

1. Pourriez-vous me préparer cette ordonnance?
2. Je cherche des aspirines.
3. Avez-vous des mouchoirs en papier?
4. J’ai mal à la tête.
5. Qu’est-ce que vous avez?
7. J’ai mal aux dents.
   J’ai mal partout.
10. Je souffre depuis un mois.

04:00

1. Votre complet vous va à la perfection.
2. Où est le rayon des enfants?
5. Pourriez-vous retoucher ce pantalon?
6. Avez-vous quelque chose d’autre, s’il vous plaît?
7. Montrez-moi, s'il vous plaît, une chemise à carreaux rouges et blancs en coton.
8. Y a-t-il des soldes aujourd'hui?
9. Ce sont celles que je préfère.
10. Ça coûte combien la ceinture noire?

03:00

1. Où se trouve un bureau de change?
2. Je cherche la location de voitures.
3. Est-ce que mon vol est annulé?
4. Il me faut un aller et retour.
5. Je voudrais louer une...
6. Ma voiture est en panne.
7. Où se trouve la station-service la plus proche?
8. Faites le plein d'ordinaire.
9. Une voiture s'est écrasée contre une autre.
10. Un chien a été frappé par une voiture.

02:00

1. Je dois aller à la banque.
2. Je voudrais toucher des chèques de voyage.
3. Avez-vous un distributeur automatique de billets?
4. Je voudrais acheter des titres.
5. Y a-t-il un conseiller financier qui puisse m'aider?
6. On apprend en travaillant.
7. Quelqu'un est parti, riant.
8. Vous cherchez (Tu cherches) quelque chose?
9. Il s'aime l'un l'autre.
10. Je suis tout à fait content(e).

01:00

1. à
2. de
3. –
4. à
5. –
6. à
1. Bonjour. Je m’appelle . . . Je suis américain(e). Enchanté(e) de faire
votre connaissance.
2. Pardon. J’ai de la difficulté à vous comprendre parce que vous
parlez très vite. S’il vous plaît, parlez plus lentement.
3. Allô. Ici . . . ___est là?
4. Ça te dit d’aller au musée d’art moderne avec moi? Il y a une
exposition formidable des œuvres de Picasso.
Pourriez-vous m’indiquer comment y aller?
6. Je n’aime pas ma chambre parce qu’elle n’est pas côté mer.
Pourriez vous la changer pour moi?
7. Je cherche un souvenir typiquement français pour un(e) ami(e).
Pourriez-vous me suggérer quelque chose?
8. Pouvez-vous m’aider? J’ai perdu mon passeport. Où est le consulat
américain le plus proche?
9. J’aime beaucoup cuisiner et faire des pâtisseries parce que j’adore
manger. Quand je cuisine, j’oublie tous mes problèmes parce que je
dois faire très attention à ce que je fais.
10. Je suis une personne très diligente, travailleuse, et honnête. Je fais
toujours de mon mieux. J’arrive tôt et je reste après les heures de
travail.
joueurs. Nous pouvons nous amuser beaucoup.
12. Je cherche un pantalon noir en laine et une chemise bleue claire à
rayures en coton. Ma taille est moyenne.
13. Je n’aime pas les comédies. C’est toujours la même chose, et je
les trouve ridicules. Pourquoi n’allons-nous pas à un film
d’espionnage?
14. Pardon. J’ai un rendez-vous très important. Pourquoi y a-t-il du
retard, et quand est-ce que l’avion va décoller?
15. Je voudrais changer deux cents dollars américains en euros. Quel
est le cours du change aujourd’hui?
16. J’ai acheté une montre en or, du parfum, et des jeux pour mes
enfants.
17. Pour commencer, je prends des escargots. Comme plat principal donnez-moi, s'il vous plaît, du poulet rôti, des haricots verts, et des pommes frites.
19. Je voudrais réserver une table pour quatre personnes pour ce soir à huit heures et demie.
20. J’ai un problème avec la voiture que j’ai louée. Les freins ne fonctionnent pas, et il est très dangereux de conduire la voiture. Qu’est-ce que je dois faire?
21. Allô. Il me faut des renseignements. À quelle heure commence le concert ce soir, et combien coûtent les billets?
23. Je me sens mal depuis hier. J’ai mal à l’estomac et n’ai pas envie de manger. En plus, j’ai de la fièvre. Pouvez-vous m’aider?
24. Comment s’appelle ton (ta) cousin(e)? Comment est-il(elle)? Il (Elle) aime aller dans les clubs danser?
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Appendix

24 Important Words
and Phrases
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Hello</td>
<td>Bonjour</td>
<td>bohN-zhoor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Good-bye</td>
<td>Au revoir</td>
<td>o ruh-vwahr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Please</td>
<td>S’il vous plaît</td>
<td>see voo pleh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Thank you very much.</td>
<td>Merci beaucoup.</td>
<td>mehr-see boo-koo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. You’re welcome.</td>
<td>De rien./ Pas de quoi.</td>
<td>duh ryaN pdh kwah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. My name is . . .</td>
<td>Je m’appelle . . .</td>
<td>zhuh mah-pehl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. I would like . . .</td>
<td>Je voudrais . . .</td>
<td>zhuh voo-dreh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. I need . . .</td>
<td>Il me faut . . . / J’ai besoin de . . .</td>
<td>eel muh foh zhay buh-zwaN duh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Do you have . . .</td>
<td>Avez-vous . . .</td>
<td>ah-vay voo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. How do you say . .</td>
<td>Comment dit-on . .</td>
<td>kohN-mahN dee-tohN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Please give me . .</td>
<td>Donnez-moi, s’il vous plaît . .</td>
<td>doh-nay mwah seel voo pleh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. What does this mean?</td>
<td>Qu’est-ce que cela veut dire?</td>
<td>kehs-kuh suh-lah vuh deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Could you help me, please?</td>
<td>Pourriez-vous m’aider, s’il vous plaît?</td>
<td>poo-ryay voo meh-day seel voo pleh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Do you speak English?</td>
<td>Parlez-vous anglais?</td>
<td>pahr-lay voo ahn-gleh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. I speak a little French.</td>
<td>Je parle un peu le français.</td>
<td>zhuh pahr luhN puh luh frahn seh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. I don’t understand.</td>
<td>Je ne comprends pas.</td>
<td>zhuh nuh kohN-prahN pah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Please repeat.</td>
<td>Répétez, s’il vous plaît.</td>
<td>ray-pay-tay seel voo pleh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>FRENCH</td>
<td>PRONUNCIATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. What did you say?</td>
<td>Qu’est-ce que vous avez dit?</td>
<td>kehs-kuh voo zah-vay dee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. I’m lost.</td>
<td>Je me suis égaré(e).</td>
<td>zhuh muh swee zay-gah-ray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. I’m looking for . . .</td>
<td>Je cherche . . .</td>
<td>zhuh shehrsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Where are the bathrooms?</td>
<td>Où sont les toilettes?</td>
<td>oo sohN lay twah-leht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Where is the police station?</td>
<td>Où est le poste de police?</td>
<td>oo eh luh pohest duh poh-lees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Where is the American Embassy?</td>
<td>Où est l’ambassade américaine?</td>
<td>oo eh lahN-bah-sahd ah-may-ree kehN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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# Index

## A
- for answering questions, 169–70
- for places, 107
- verbs that require, 285–86
- + definite article, 106
- (vowel), pronouncing, 4

## Accent marks
- aigu, 3
- cédille, 3
- circonflexe, 3
- grave, 3
- tréma, 4

## Accidents
- terms for, 266–67

## Acheter
- (to buy), 38, 143

## Acquaintances
- phrases for questioning new, 160–61

## Active voice
- 267

## Adjectives
- adverbs not formed from, 85–87
- comparisons of, 208–11
- with different meanings, 81–82
- ending in -é, 75
- ending in silent -e, 75–76
- forming irregular adjectives, 76–79
- making feminine, 74–75
- making plurals of, 79–80
- past participles used as, 76
- positioning, 80–81
- possessive, 99–100
- special forms of, 79

## Adverbs
- comparisons of, 211–13
- exceptions for, 84–85
- forming, 83
- indefinite pronouns as, 277
- not formed from adjectives, 85–87
- positioning, 87
- of quantity, 87

## Affirmative answers
- 164

## Affirmer
- (to affirm), 204

## Aigu mark
- 3

## Aimer
- (to like), past participle, 49

## Airplanes
- travel terms for, 263

## Airports
- terms for, 262–63

## Aller
- (to go), 39
- imperfect of, 54
- passé composé, 51
- subjunctive for, 146

## Alterations
- for clothing, terms for, 254–55
INDEX

An (year), using, 121
Animals, names of, 206
Answers
  for no, 164–67
  positive, to invitations, 194
  for yes, 164
Antonyms, 210–11
Appeler (to call), 38
Appetizers, names of, 231
Arriver (to arrive), passé composé, 51
Articles
  definite, 16–17
  demonstrative adjectives, 18–19
  indefinite, 17–18
Assistance, phrases for, 176
Assurer (to assure), 204
Aucun(e), 275
Automobiles, terms for, 264–67
Autre(s), 275–76
Avancer (to advance), 36
Avoir (to have)
  conjugating, 39–40
  as helping verb, 48
  imperfect of, 54
  past participle, 49
  subjunctive for, 147
-ayer verbs, future tense for, 65

B
Banking, terms for, 271–72. See also Business terms
Bars, drink terms for, 235–36
Beverages, terms for, 235–36
Bistros. See Food establishments
Body, parts of the, 246–47
Boire (to drink), 40
  imperfect of, 54
  past participle, 49
Brasseries. See Food establishments
Business terms
  for banking, 270–71
  for computers, 281–83
  for conducting business, 283–85
  for faxes, 281
  for photocopying, 280–81
  for stationery, 280

C
Cafés. See Food establishments
Camera stores, phrases for, 180
Cardinal numbers, 116–17
Cars, terms for, 264–67
Ce + être, using, 136–38
Ce, ça (this), 188
Ce (demonstrative adjective), 18–19
Ce qui, ce que, and ce dont, 225–26
Ceci, cela (this), 188
Cédille mark, 3
- cer verbs, conjugating, 36–37
Certain(e)s, 276
Cet (demonstrative adjective), 18–19
Cheeses, names of, 236
Choisir (to choose), 34
Circonflexe mark, 3
Classrooms, terms for, 206
Cloth, types of, 257
Clothing, 252–63
  colors and, 256–57
  explaining problems of, 255–56
  fabrics for, 257
  getting alterations for, 254–55
  making purchases for, 258
  patterns for, 257
  sales and, 258
  selecting sizes for, 253–54
  variable demonstrative pronouns for, 258–59
Cognates, 26–28
  false friends, 27–28
  near perfect, 27
  perfect, 26
Colors, names of, 256–57
Combien (how much, many), 169
Commands, giving, 129–30
Comment (how), 169
Comparison expressions
  colloquial, 215
  of equality, 214–15
  of inequality, 207–14
    for adjectives, 208–11
    for adverbs, 211–13
    for nouns, 213–14
Complaints, phrases for, 136
Compound prepositions, 106
INDEX

Computers, terms for, 281–83
Condiments, names of, 235
Conditional tense
of irregular verbs, 68–69
of regular verbs, 67–68
uses of, 69
Conditional sentences, 70–71
Conduire (to drive), 40
imperfect of, 54
past participle, 50
Conjunctions
subjunctive after, 220–22
that take indicative, 222
Connaître (to know), 40
imperfect of, 54
past participle, 49
Consonants, 9–12
Continents, names of, 97
Cooking terms, 234–35
Countries, names of
feminine, 97
masculine, 96
Croire (to believe), 40–41, 196, 204
imperfect of, 54
past participle, 49
D
Dans, 106
Days/dates, names of, 119, 121–22
De
for places, 107
showing possession with, 99
verbs that require, 286–87
Definite articles, 16–17
Demonstrative adjectives, 18–19
Demonstrative pronouns, variable,
258–59
Des (indefinite article), 17–18
Descendre (to descend), passé composé for, 51, 52
Devenir (to become), passé composé for, 50
Devoir (to have to or to owe), 41, 143–44
imperfect of, 54
past participle, 49
Dietary restrictions, terms for, 238
Dire (to say), 41
imperfect of, 55
Direct object pronouns, 188–89
Directions
asking for, 159
giving and receiving, 130–33
Doctor’s office
asking and answering “how long?”
259
explaining health symptoms,
247–48
terms for, 248
Dont, 224–25
Dormir (to sleep), 41
imperfect of, 55
D’où (from where), 170
Double object pronouns, order of,
193–94
Drinks, terms for, 235–36
Dry cleaner’s, phrases for, 179
E
E + consonant + er verbs
conjugating, 37–38
future tense for, 65–66
É + consonant + er verbs, conjugating, 38
E (vowel), pronouncing, 4–5
Écrire (to write), 41
imperfect of, 55
past participle, 50
Eating establishments. See Food establishments; Foods; Meals
Eggs, cooking terms for, 234
Elision, 2
Emotions, subjunctive to express,
195–96
Employer (to use), 37
En, 106, 239–42
Encouragement, phrases for offering,
149–50
Entrer (to enter), passé composé, 51
-er verbs
conditional of, 67–68
conjugating, 32–34
Espérer (to hope), 196, 204
Est-ce que, for questions, 152–53
Estimer (to esteem), 204
Être à, 101
Être (to be), 41
imperfect of, 54
past participle, 50
subjunctive for, 147
using passé composé with, 50–51
Exclamations, 219

F
Fabrics, types of, 257
Faire (to make, do), 42
imperfect of, 55
past participle, 50
subjunctive for, 146
Falloir (to be necessary), 191
False friends, 27–28
Family members, names of
female, 98–99
male, 98
showing possession and,
99–101
Faxes, sending, 281
Feelings, subjunctive to express,
195–96
Female family members, names of,
98–99
Feminine countries, names of, 97
Finance. See Business terms
Fish, 232
Food establishments, 230–31
drinks, 235–36
etiquette for, 237
menu terms for, 233
phrases for problems in, 238
terms for table settings in, 237
Food stores
expressions for going to, 142
getting help in, 142–43
names of, 141–42
Foods
appetizers, 231
cheeses, 236
cooking terms, 234–35
desserts, 236
diet restrictions and, 238
fish and seafood, 232
fowl and game, 232
fruits, 233
herbs, condiments, and spices,
terms for, 235
ice cream terms, 236
meats, 232
nuts, 233
salads, 233
soups, 231–32
Fowl and game, names of, 232
Fruits, names of, 233
Furniture, names of, 140–41
Future perfect, 67
Future tense, 64
of irregular verbs, 66
of regular verbs, 64–65
of shoe verbs, 65
uses of, 66

G
Game and fowl, names of, 232
Games, names of, 186–87
Gender, 16
Gender-obvious nouns, 19–21
-ger verbs, conjugating, 37
Good-byes, phrases for, 90–91
Grave mark, 3
Greetings, phrases for, 90–91

H
Hair salon, phrases for, 178–79
Help, phrases for, 176
Herbs, names of, 235
Hotels
amenities for, 218
room needs and, 218–19
House and home
chores, 141
furniture, 140–41
rooms and parts, 140
store names for, 141–42
“How long?”, asking and answering, 249
INDEX

I

I (vowel), pronouncing, 5
Ice cream, terms for, 236
Idioms, 135
Il est, using, 136–38
Il y a, using, 159
Imperfect tense (l'imparfait), 53
deciding when to use, 55–58
of être, 54
of irregular verbs, 54–55
of regular verbs, 53
of shoe verbs, 54
Impersonal expressions, 144
subjunctive after, 203
Indefinite articles, 17–18
Indefinite pronouns, 274–77
as adverbs, 277
Indicative, for doubt, certainty, or probability, 202–3
Indifference, expressing, 201–2
Indirect object pronouns, 188, 189–91
Infinitives
prepositions before, 285–87
reflexive verbs with, 95
Information questions, 155–58
answering, 168–72
interrogative adjectives for, 155
interrogative adverbs for, 155–56
invariable interrogative pronouns for, 157–58
variable interrogative pronouns for, 156–57
Interrogative adjectives, for information questions, 155
Interrogative adverbs
for answering questions, 169–71
for information questions, 155–56
Invariable demonstrative pronouns, 188
Invariable interrogative pronouns, 157–58
Inversion, for questions, 153–54
Invitations
accepting, 110
expressing indecision and indifference for, 111
extending, 109–10
ne ... pas and, 112
positive responses to, 194
refusing, 111
verbs for, 104–5
-ir verbs
conditional of, 67–68
conjugating, 34–35
Irregular adjectives, forming, 76–79
Irregular verbs, 39–44. See also Reflexive verbs; Regular verbs; Shoe verbs;
Verbs
conditional of, 68–69
future tense of, 66
passé simple of, 59–60
subjunctive for, 146–47

J

Jeter (to throw), 38
Jewelry stores, phrases for, 181
Jouer (to play), past participle, 49

L

La (definite article), 16–17
Le (definite article), 16–17
Lequel for information questions, 168–69
as object of preposition, 224
Les (definite article), 16–17
Liaison, 2
Lire (to read), 43
imperfect of, 55
past participle, 49

M

Male family members, names of, 98
Manger (to eat), 37
Manquer (to miss), 191
Masculine countries, names of, 96
Meals. See also Food establishments;
Foods
names of, 232–34
types of, 230
Meats, names of, 232
Medical problems, explaining symptoms of, 247–48
Menu terms, 234
Mettre (to put), 43
    imperfect of, 55
    past participle, 50
Mois (less), 213–14
Monter (to go up), passé composé, 51, 52
Months, names of, 120
Mourir (to die), passé composé, 50
Movies, phrases for, 187

N
Naitre (to be born), passé composé, 51
Nasal sounds, pronouncing, 6–8
Nationalities, names of, 97–98
Ne, 166
Ne . . . jamais, 166–67
Ne . . . pas, 112
    with reflexive verbs, 112
Near perfect cognates, 27
Need and necessity, subjunctive for, 147–48
Negative answers, 164–67
Negative expressions, for questions, 167–68
Negative opinions, expressing, 201
N’est-ce pas, for questions, 152
Ni . . . ni, 165
No, answering, 164–67
Non-nasal combinations, 9
Noun markers, 16–19
    definite articles, 16–17
    demonstrative adjectives, 18–19
    indefinite articles, 17–18
Nouns, 19–25
    always feminine, 21
    always masculine, 21
    comparison of, 213–14
    for either gender, 20
    gender endings for, 21–22
    gender-changing singular, 20
    gender-obvious, 19–20
    making plurals for, 22–25
    subject, 30–31
Nulle part, 165–66
Numbers
    cardinal, 116–17
    nouns of, 117–18
    ordinal, 118–19
    pronunciation guide for, 118
Nuts, names of, 233

O
O (vowel), pronouncing, 5–6
Object pronouns, 188–94
    agreement of past participle and, 192–93
    direct, 188–89
    indirect, 188, 189–91
    order of double, 193–94
    position of, 192
Offrir (to offer), 43
    imperfect of, 55
    past participle, 50
Opinions
    expressing negative, 201
    subjunctive after verbs of, 204
Optical centers, phrases for, 179–80
Ordinal numbers, 118–19
Origins, phrases for, 95–97
Où, as relative pronoun, 225
Ouvrir (to open), 43, 50
    imperfect of, 55

P
Parler (to speak), 32
Participles
    perfect, 274
    present, 272–74
Partir (to leave), passé composé, 51–53
Partitive, for quantity, 229–30
Passé composé (past tense)
    deciding when to use, 55–58
    forming, with être, 51–52
    using, with être, 50–51
Passé simple (past definite), 59
    of irregular verbs, 59–60
    of shoe verbs, 59
Passer (to pass by), passé composé, 51

316
Passive voice, 267–68
Past conditional, 69–70
Past participles, 48–49
  agreement of object pronouns and, 192–93
  for irregular verbs, 49–50
  for regular verbs, 49
  used as adjectives, 76
Past subjunctive, 149
Past tense. See Passé composé (past tense)
Patterns, clothing, names for, 257
Penser (to think), 196, 204
Perception, verbs of, 194
Perfect cognates, 26
Perfect participles, 274
Personne, 165–66
Pharmacy terms, 244–45
Phones. See Telephones
Photocopies, phrases for making, 280–81
Photography stores, phrases for, 180
Places, names of, 107
Plaire (to please), 191
Pleuvoir (to rain), past participle, 49
Pluperfect, 58–59
Plurals
  for adjectives, 79–80
  for nouns, 22–25
Plus (more), 213–14
Plusieurs, 276
Positive reinforcement, 135–36
Possessive adjectives, 99–100
Possessive pronouns, 100–101
Post office, phrases for, 176–78
Pourquoi (why), 170
Pouvoir (to be able to), 43
  imperfect of, 55
  for invitations, 104
  special uses of, 104–5
  subjunctive for, 147
Prendre (to take), 43
  imperfect of, 55
  past participle, 50
Prepositional modifiers, 245–46
Prepositions, 105–6
  compound, 106
  before infinitives, 285
  using, in answers, 171–72
  verbs used without, 287
Present participles, 272–74
Present subjunctive
  avoiding, 149
  for expressions of need and necessity, 147–48
  forming 144–45
  for irregular verbs, 146–47
  for regular verbs, 145
  for verbs of wishing and wanting, 148
  for verbs with two stems
Present tense, 45
Prices, asking for, 160
Pronouns, 30
  indefinite, 274–77
  invariable demonstrative, 188
  for making suggestions, 186
  possessive, 100–101
  stress, 108–9
  subject, 30–31
  variable demonstrative, 258–59
Pronunciation
  elision and, 2
  liaison and, 2
  perfecting, 2
  stress for, 2
Proposals, making, 128

Q
Quand (when), 169
Quantities
  adverbs of, 87
  measuring, 228
  nouns of, 228–29
  using partitive for, 229–30
Que (whom, which, that), 157–58
  in answers, 165
  as direct object of relative clause, 223–24
Quel (which, that, what), 155
  for information questions, 168–69
Quelque chose, 276
Qu’est-ce qui, que, answering questions with, 170
Questions
answers to commonly asked, 171
asking yes/no, 152–54
information, 155–58
answering, 168–72
interrogative adjectives for, 155
interrogative adverbs for, 155–56
invariable interrogative pronouns for,
157–58
variable interrogative pronouns for,
156–57
for lack of communication, 161
negative expressions for, 167–68
for new acquaintances, 160–61
Qui (who, whom, which, that), 157–58
for answering questions, 170
as object of preposition, 224
as subject of relative clause, 223
Quoi (what), 170–71

Responses. See Answers
Restaurants, 230–31. See also Food
establishments; Foods; Meals
Rester (to remain), passé composé, 51
Rétourner (to return), passé composé, 51
Revenir (to come back), passé composé,
50
Rien, 166, 276
Roads, parts of, 267
Rooms, names of, 140

S
Salads, names of, 233
Sales, for clothing, 258
Savoir (to know a fact), 44
imperfect of, 55
past participle, 49
subjunctive for, 147
School subjects, names of, 207
Se réjouir (to rejoice), 196
Se sentir (to feel), 92, 248
Seafood, names of, 232
Seasons, names of, 120
S’étonner (to be astonished), 196
Shoe verbs. See also Irregular verbs;
Reflexive verbs; Regular verbs;
Verbs
conjugating, 36–38
imperfect of, 54
passé simple of, 59
subjunctive for, 145–46
Sizes, of clothing, 253–54
Sortir (to go out), passé composé, 51,
52–53
Soups, names of, 231–32
Special services and needs, phrases for,
181–82
Spices, names of, 235
Sports activities. See also Leisure activi-
ties, names of
engaging in, 198–99
equipment for, 199
names of, 198
Stationery supplies, terms for, 280
Stock market, terms for, 271–72. See
also Business terms
Stores
expressions for going to, 142
getting help in, 142–43
names of, 141–42
Stress pronouns, 108–9
Subject nouns, 30–31
Subject pronouns, 30–31
Subjunctive
after conjunctions, 220–22
after impersonal expressions, 203
after superlative expressions, 215–16
after verbs of opinion or knowledge, 204
to express emotions and feelings, 195–96
with expressions of doubt, 202–3
present
avoiding, 149
for expressions of need and necessity, 147–48
forming, 144–45
for irregular verbs, 146–47
of regular verbs, 145
for verbs of wishing and wanting, 148
for verbs with two stems, 145–46
in relative clauses, 222
in third person commands, 220
Suggestions, pronouns for, 186
Superlative expressions
colloquial, 215
of inequality
for adjectives, 208–11
for adverbs, 211–13
for nouns, 213–14
Syllables, stress for, 2

T
Table settings, terms for, 237
Telephones
phrases for conversations on, 172–73
phrases for problems with, 17
Television, phrases for, 187
Temperature, phrases for expressing, 200
Time
expressions of, 120–21
phrases for telling, 122–24
Tomber (to fall), passé composé, 51
Tout, 276
Train stations, terms for, 264
Transportation, means of, 130–31
Travel terms
for airplanes, 263
for airports, 262–63
for cars, 264–67
for giving and receiving directions, 131–33
for train stations, 264
Tréma mark, 4

U
U (vowel), pronouncing, 6
Un (indefinite article), 17–18
Une (indefinite article), 17–18

V
Variable demonstrative pronouns, 258–59
Variable interrogative pronouns,
for information questions, 156–57
Vendre (to sell), 35
Venir (to come), 44
imperfect of, 55
passé composé, 51
Verbs, 31. See also Irregular verbs;
Passé composé (past tense);
Reflexive verbs; Regular verbs;
Shoe verbs
for invitations, 104–5
of perception, 194
reflexive, 91–95
requiring à, 285–86
requiring de, 286–87
taking direct object pronouns, 190
taking indirect object pronouns, 190–91
used without prepositions, 287
uses of present tense of, 45
INDEX

Voir (to see), 44
   imperfect of, 55
   past participle, 49
Vouloir (to want), 44
   imperfect of, 55
   for invitations, 104
   past participle, 49
   special uses of, 104
   subjunctive for, 146
Vowels, pronouncing, 4–6

W
Wanting, subjunctive for, 148
Weather, phrases for, 199–200
Wishing, subjunctive for, 148

Y
Y (there)
   positioning, 134–35
   using, 133–34
   -yer verbs, conjugating, 37
   future tense for, 65
Yes, answering, 164
Yes/no questions, asking, 152–54
“You’re welcome,” phrases for, 110
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